

U.S. foreign affairs chairman dies

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressman Clement Zablocki, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, died Saturday after suffering a heart attack in his office three days ago, a spokesman at Capitol Hill Hospital said. The 71-year-old Wisconsin Democrat, a member of Congress for 35 years, never regained consciousness. Mr. Zablocki exerted a major influence on U.S. foreign policy during his six-year term as head of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. A major achievement was his co-authorship of the War Powers Act, which prohibits a president from keeping American troops in hostile territory for more than 60 days without congressional approval. He fought hard in the congressional session which ended in November to have the 1973 act applied to U.S. Marines in Lebanon and American troops on Grenada.

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Israel says soldier, rab killed Friday

TEL AVIV (R) — As its planes lacked guerrilla bases in central Lebanon, Israel said Saturday that one of its soldiers and a local Arab were killed in an ambush Friday in southern Lebanon. An Israeli army spokesman reported that the ambush took place near Nabatieh. He said the two died when an Israeli army patrol was attacked by three masked gunmen.

Israeli embassy attacked in Bangkok

BANGKOK (R) — Unidentified attackers Saturday fired a powerful rocket-propelled grenade on the Israeli embassy here, punching a hole through a front brick wall of the building, police said. They said the mysterious rocket, fired from a fast moving car, caused no casualty but destroyed trees fronting the mission's compound and shattered windows of vehicles parked nearby.

Japan extends aid to victims in Lebanon

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Japanese government Friday decided to extend an emergency aid of \$500,000 through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), for the victims of the conflict in Lebanon. Those who will benefit from this decision are about 15,000 inhabitants in the Alley-Shouf area south of Beirut, affected by the intensified internal fighting in September.

Iraq repeats warning to Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, accusing the Tehran government of continued attacks on civilian areas, has reiterated a warning that it would again strike targets inside Iran if the shelling continued. A military spokesman said in Baghdad Friday night that "previous warnings have apparently failed to bring the Iranian rulers back to their senses."

Trudeau in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau arrived here Saturday for a 24-hour visit, during which he is likely to put forward proposals for easing international political tension. Canadian diplomats said, Mr. Trudeau arrived from Bahrain on the last leg of a five-day Gulf tour in which his campaign for creating a climate for international peace discussions, especially nuclear arms reduction, has been a central topic. The Canadian prime minister also visited Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Police enter Sikh temple

NEW DELHI (R) — Police entered a Sikh temple in an unprecedented move and arrested more than 40 people in Delhi's old quarter Saturday after a clash between rival Sikh factions, police said. At least three people were injured in the clash, in which bullets were fired and stones and bottles thrown, police added. Eight people were arrested inside the temple and 34 outside.

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King says U.S.-Israel accords would hurt American credibility

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed concern over the political and military agreements reached by Israel and the United States earlier this week, saying they would hurt American credibility among the moderate Arab governments. In an interview with the New York Times and the Washington Post in Amman on Thursday, the King also expressed concern over an Israeli plan, announced last month, to resettle Palestinian refugees in camps inside the occupied territories, describing the scheme as the first step in pushing the Palestinians out of their territory and their homeland. The following is the text of the interview, written by Terence Smith and published in the New York Times on Friday:

AMMAN, Dec. 1 — His Majesty King Hussein said Thursday that he was prepared to resume talks with Mr. Yasser Arafat on a joint Palestinian-Jordanian approach to negotiations on the future of the West Bank and Gaza. His Majesty King Hussein said Thursday that he was prepared to resume talks with Mr. Yasser Arafat on a joint Palestinian-Jordanian approach to negotiations on the future of the West Bank and Gaza.

The talks on a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, proposed in President Reagan's peace plan last year, were broken off last April.

The King also described the political and military agreements reached by Israel and the United States this week as dismaying. He said they would hurt American credibility among the moderate Arab governments.

'He is welcome' in Amman

"Yasser Arafat is the legitimate leader of the Palestinian people, and if he leaves Tripoli he is welcome to come to Amman," the King said, in an interview here. The King also confirmed that he received a letter from President Reagan this week that reiterated a

A 'reward' to Israel

"We see these developments as a kind of 'reward' to Israel for its rejection of the Reagan plan of 1982, its continued settlement activities in the occupied territories and the continued presence of its occupying forces in southern Lebanon," the King said, his deep voice rising for emphasis. "This is as far as we are concerned, totally dismaying, and affects adversely the credibility of the United States in the area."

The King's comments on the Israeli-American talks contrasted with a view expressed by a senior American official in Washington, who told reporters after the meet-

ing between President Reagan and Mr. Shamir on Tuesday that he doubted the new agreements would be a source of any great concern to the moderate Arabs. "It's of major concern to all of us," the King said.

A deep pessimism

As he talked about the crisis in Lebanon, his government's differences with Syria, Soviet involvement in the Middle East and the continuing struggle with Israel, the King displayed a deep pessimism about recent developments. "This is a difficult and ominous period," he said. "The area is facing grave dangers in Lebanon, for the Lebanese people and possibly the world."

"You know, I have always been an optimist," he said at one point. "But now I am really alarmed."

The King also expressed concern over an Israeli plan, announced two weeks ago, to resettle many of the Palestinian refugees in camps inside Israeli-controlled territory in new housing outside the camps. "The plan is to move the Palestinians into the Jordan Valley," he said. "This is the first step in pushing them out of their territory and their homeland."

The King argued that to restore its credibility with the Arab World, the United States should use its influence to persuade Israel to halt settlement activity and to withdraw from Lebanon. "There should be a clear policy adopted to seek the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, be they Israeli or other," he said.

U.S.-Israeli accord will be harmful, says Egypt, page 2

Israeli jets stage raids in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli planes raided Syrian and Palestinian positions in Lebanon's central mountains Saturday in revenge for guerrilla attacks on Israeli occupation forces in South Lebanon. Local militia officials said.

Hesham Nasreddin, an official of the mainly Druse Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), said the planes hit two Syrian bases in and near the town of Sofar, 20 kilometres east of Beirut, and a Palestinian position in the nearby village of Mansouriyeh.

Mr. Nasreddin, speaking by telephone from the mountains, said four Syrian soldiers were wounded. There were no other casualties.

Earlier reports from the PSP said one of their positions was also hit but the official said this was a misunderstanding.

Right-wing Falangist radio said the target in Sofar, which lies behind Syrian lines, was a Syrian radar installation.

In Damascus, a Syrian military spokesman quoted by the official news agency SANA said the planes attacked PSP positions in the

northern Metn area, north of the main Beirut-Damascus highway. Syrian air defences intercepted the planes and forced them to fly back towards Israel, the Syrian spokesman added.

Mr. Nasreddin said the planes tried to attack the Metn area but were driven off by heavy fire from anti-aircraft guns.

Falangist radio said two United States F-14s, apparently from aircraft carriers off the Lebanese coast, had missiles fired at them when they flew over the same area after the Israeli raid.

Mr. Shultz said a key to the Middle East peace process is to have Jordan, with "an appropriate Palestinian delegation, come to the negotiating table."

While that has not yet happened, he noted, the Reagan administration continues to be in close contact with Jordan on the subject.

The secretary indicated that the suspension of sales to Israel of U.S.-made cluster bombs will be lifted if a satisfactory agreement on their usage can be worked out.

In reference to the new U.S.-Israeli political-military group, Mr. Shultz pointed to the "very tense situation in the Middle East brought about in considerable part by the large build-up of Soviet arms and troop presence in Syria."

The "threat" that represents to Israel and the entire region, he stressed, "is something that we have to be very alert to."

Efforts to lift Shouf village siege will get priority, Shultz assures Gemayel, page 2

PLO aide underscores talks with Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said that the possible resumption of Jordan-PLO talks aim at establishing a joint political and military front capable of confronting Israel.

Hani Al Hassan, a senior advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that both Jordan and the PLO have "an accurate perception" of two important issues. First, he said, "both sides are determined not to allow the Israelis and the Americans to replace the Palestinian option by an American-Israeli one that Jordan is the substitute homeland for the Palestinians."

Mr. Hassan reiterated that the Palestinians will not accept any land and Palestine as their homeland. The second issue, he added, "is to work on formulating a joint political perspective within the framework of peace proposals adopted by the Fes summit in order to attain the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and a European recognition of that right."

"Such a perspective also aims to force the U.S. to realise that the Palestinian right to self-determination within the concept of a confederation with Jordan is an issue that can not be bypassed," he said.

States fully supports the May 17 agreement between Israel and Lebanon that provides the framework for an Israeli withdrawal. And as has been the case in the past, the spokesman refused to discuss the so-called "side letters" or understandings which accompany that agreement.

"When we talk about the agreement, we are talking about the agreement," Mr. Hughes said. But he added that it was his understanding that what other understandings there may be remain in force. And he cautioned reporters they would be "going down the wrong track" if they believed "any attendant understandings that accompanied that agreement had changed or here considered null and void."

It has been widely reported, but not officially confirmed by the United States, that at least one "side letter" specifies that an Israeli withdrawal must be accompanied by similar arrangements for Syrian troops to leave Lebanon simultaneously.

On a related issue, Mr. Hughes said he had no specific reaction to the suggestion by His Majesty King Hussein in a press interview, that increased U.S.-Israeli political and military co-operation could hurt American policy objectives in the Middle East.

Shultz stresses Reagan initiative

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in a breakfast meeting with reporters Friday, said that President Reagan continues "to favour the positions that he put forward" in his Middle East peace initiative of September, 1982, and "said so clearly and forcefully" during his recent talks in Washington with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

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Efforts to lift Shouf village siege will get priority, Shultz assures Gemayel, page 2

U.N. flag to fly over Arafat pullout

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council agreed unanimously Saturday to permit Palestinians loyal to Yasser Arafat to leave the Lebanese city of Tripoli under the protection of the United Nations flag, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced. He told reporters that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) envoy Zehdi Terzi had asked for the safeguard. Mr. Perez de Cuellar said after an hour-long meeting of the 15-nation group that members had approved a proposal he had made in response to the request. Delegates said the U.N. banner and that of Lebanon would fly over the withdrawing Palestinians, who are expected to go to Tunisia by sea in vessels provided by Saudi Arabia.



His Majesty King Hussein and Turkish President Kenan Evren inspect a guard of honour mounted to honour the Turkish leader who arrived in Amman Saturday on a three-day official visit (Petra photo)

Turkish president begins 3-day visit to Jordan Hussein warns against delay in Middle East peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Any delay in efforts to solve the Palestine problem, which is the crux of the Middle East conflict, will have serious effects on future generations, His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday.

King Hussein was speaking at a banquet he hosted in honour of Turkish President Kenan Evren who arrived in Amman earlier Saturday on a three-day official visit.

The King expressed his pleasure in welcoming the Turkish leader to Jordan and praised the historic and religious links that bind the two countries together.

The King also voiced hope that the friendly and cultural links between Jordan and Turkey will "guide us forward towards expanding bilateral co-operation for the benefit of both peoples."

King Hussein pointed out that Jordan has suffered for a long time from aggression and the Palestinians have long been denied their rights in their homeland.

"Jordan has always supported the rights of the Palestinians but was always confronted with Israel's rejection and its arbitrary measures against the Palestinians," the King said.

"We have always called on Israel to choose between land and

peace and pointed out that it cannot have both. For us peace means justice for all peoples in the region," the King stressed.

He emphasised that the "root cause of the Middle East conflict is the Palestine problem," and warned that "any delay in solving this problem will lead to further tragedies and disasters which would affect the future generations."

The Lebanese crisis, the King said, is a direct effect of the Palestine problem and in invading Lebanon Israel cited "security" reasons. But, the King pointed out, the invasion has resulted in devastation to Lebanon and its people and the Palestinians living there.

King Hussein also spoke about the continuing Iran-Iraq war "which was brought about by Iranian ambitions and aggressions," Iraq, he said, is defending its territory and the Arab Nation in the face of the Iranian aggression.

Evren pledges efforts

In reply to the King's speech, President Evren pledged that Turkey will do everything possible to help bring about peace to the Middle East.

"The Palestine problem is the

crux of the Middle East issue and the Palestinians should regain their rights in their homelands so that a just and durable peace can be achieved," President Evren said.

He said that Israel's total withdrawal from lands it occupied in 1967 represent the basic requirement for the establishment of such peace.

Official talks held

Earlier Saturday, King Hussein and President Evren held official talks at the Royal Court. They reviewed current Middle East developments, Israel's occupation of Arab land, the situation in Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war.

The Turkish president is accompanied by an official delegation, including Foreign Minister Turgut Ersoy, which attended the talks.

Jordan was represented at the talks by His Highness Prince Mohammad. Court Minister Amer Khammash, Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour, Planning Council President Hanna Odeh and Jordan's ambassador to Turkey.

Hungary reaffirms support for Arabs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi Saturday reaffirmed his country's support for the Arabs in the Arab-Israeli conflict and voiced appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's views in regard to the recent Middle East developments, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra said.

In an audience with King Hussein at the Royal Court, Mr. Varkonyi, who arrived here Friday on a three-day visit, said that Hungary supports the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab lands and efforts to safeguard Palestinian people's right to self-determination, Petra said.

It said that the minister conveyed to King Hussein an invitation from the Hungarian president to visit Hungary and the King accepted the invitation. The visit will take place at a date to be fixed later, Petra said. The audience was attended by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

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Call for international efforts

Earlier Saturday, Mr. Varkonyi and Mr. Qasem called for more international efforts to deal with the "explosive" situation in Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Qasem and Mr. Varkonyi also discussed the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, Petra said.

They reaffirmed their support for a settlement of the Middle East problem based on U.N. resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from Arab lands occupied in 1967 and Palestinian self-determination, the agency added.


They also expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations and pledged to strengthen these ties in various fields.

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Trade, economy talks

Mr. Varkonyi also met with Minister of Supplies Ibrahim Ayyoub to review Jordanian-Hungarian economic and trade relations.

The current balance of trade between the two countries is in favour of Hungary and Jordan hopes to adjust the balance by selling phosphates to Hungary, an importer of the commodity, Mr. Ayyoub said at the meeting. He also explained the Jordanian government's policy in regard to economic and trade exchanges that Jordan adopts the principle of barter, and prefers to pay part of the cost of economic projects by Jordanian products including phosphates, fertilisers, vegetables and fruit.



We extend our warmest greetings to His Excellency



KENAN EVREN
President of the Republic of Turkey
on the occasion of his visit to Jordan

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MIDDLE EAST

Beirut gains least from week of U.S. Mideast diplomacy

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration, in a week of Middle East diplomacy, has strengthened ties with Israel and given political support to Lebanon's efforts to get all foreign troops out of the country.

But it made clear that Lebanon could not expect Washington to pressure Israel to pull its forces back before Syria does.

Appearing first with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and later with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, President Reagan firmly supported the May 17 Israel-Lebanon agreement under which Israel pledged to withdraw its troops.

The withdrawal was conditional on a Syrian pullout but Damascus has so far refused to remove its 40,000 troops.

Instead of a dramatic move to break the impasse, the administration is pinning its hopes on the gradual process of extending Lebanese government control over wider areas of the country and reconciliation of warring factions.

Secretary of State George Shultz said after talks with Mr.

Gemayel Friday that the visit was "part of a process which has been going on for a year or so now."

Press reports said Mr. Gemayel planned to seek to amend or scrap the provision that linked Israeli to Syrian withdrawal.

But Foreign Minister Elie Salem told reporters Friday Lebanon was not interested in having only Israel withdraw but wanted the Syrians and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas out too.

Both Mr. Salem and President Gemayel gave optimistic assessments of the outlook in Lebanon despite reports of a deteriorating situation there.

"I think the environment for the forming of a government of national unity exists," he said. "I believe we have regional support for it."

He said Mr. Gemayel and opposition leaders would continue a

dialogue, either in Geneva, where a five-day reconciliation conference was held last month, or in Beirut.

Mr. Salem's assessment of Syria's role differed sharply from the rhetoric used by both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Shamir following their White House talks.

Common concern

Mr. Reagan said there was a common concern with the Soviet presence in the Middle East and Syria's Kremlin-supplied arms build up.

Mr. Reagan said Syria was a major threat to peace in the region. But according to Mr. Salem: "Syria has opened a new chapter with Lebanon that has important, positive implications."

Mr. Salem noted there had been exchange visits at foreign minister level between Beirut and Damascus and said more talks were expected next week.

A senior U.S. official also said a "new tone" had been heard from Syria in recent weeks. He noted that Syria had not disrupted the Geneva conference by insisting

the leaders of the Lebanese factions first abrogate the May 17 accords with Israel before seeking to reconcile their differences.

Nevertheless, distrust of Syria and the Soviet Union was a key element in this week's U.S.-Israeli agreement setting the foundation for a new military-political relationship.

Officials had said the new close ties contained a message to Damascus and Moscow and suggested the Syrians might consider this in their policy decisions.

A senior U.S. official said there was less anxiety among Washington's Arab friends over the new relationship than there had been two years ago when a similar plan was being made.

But King Hussein has said the agreement would damage U.S. credibility in the Arab World.

A U.S. official said Mr. Reagan stressed to Mr. Shamir that the United States needed to maintain its links with moderate Arabs, including future arms deals.

Israel is the largest recipient of American military aid but sizeable sales are made to Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

U.S.-Israeli pact will be harmful, Egypt says

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Prime Minister Fuad Mohamedin Saturday described the U.S. strategic co-operation agreement with Israel reached last Tuesday as "a new obstacle to peace."

Mr. Mohamedin said in the national assembly that the agreement, which Egypt was still studying, would be among factors that would increase polarisation in the Middle East.

A Cairo newspaper, meanwhile, said that as a result of the accord Israel "is about to mount the American horse" for a new adventure in the Middle East.

Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel under U.S. auspices in 1979, is among Washington's closest allies in the region, incurring the anger of other Arabs although also obtaining \$2.3 billion a year in U.S. military and civil aid.

U.S. President Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir clinched the new strategic agreement when Mr. Shamir visited Washington this week.

Mr. Reagan spoke of closer political and military ties to meet what he called a Soviet threat. Egypt, although it has regularly conducted joint military exercises with U.S. forces, does not appear to share the perception that any Soviet threat is best countered by stronger U.S.-Israeli military ties.

The Egyptians, like Saudi Arabia, have urged the United States to press Israel into withdrawing from Lebanon and to stop making new Jewish settlements on the occupied West Bank of Jordan.

They argue this would make it easier for Jordan's King Hussein to follow the lead of the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and enter U.S.-sponsored peace talks with Israel.

Boutros Ghali speaks

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Boutros Boutros Ghali, was quoted Friday night by the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) as saying: "The United States cannot play the role of a full partner in the peace process unless its stand is balanced between the Israelis and Arab rights."

Arafat's evacuation request poses dilemma for U.N. body

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A request from PLO leader Yasser Arafat to evacuate his men from the besieged city of Tripoli under the United Nations flag has presented the Security Council with a host of legal and political questions.

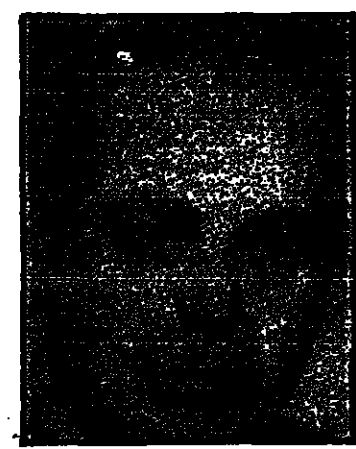
After wrestling with them privately all day Friday, Council members scheduled further consultations Saturday.

The president of the 15-nation body, Max van der Stoep of the Netherlands, declined to say how much support there was for the request, conveyed orally to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Thursday night by the Palestine Liberation Organisation's U.N. observer, Zehdi Terzi.

"I did notice a general willingness to seek a solution which would mean an end of human suffering," he said, although there might be different views on how to achieve this.

"Inevitably... all sorts of complications arise," he added, citing as examples the need to ascertain the views of the Lebanese government, how the proposed evacuation would be carried out, and what cease-fire arrangements had been made.

A number of Council members said the appeal from the PLO chairman had come as a surprise.



Javier Perez de Cuellar

Several focused on the need to spare the inhabitants of Tripoli further loss of life as a result of fighting between rival Palestinian factions. Mr. Terzi told reporters he envisaged the evacuation of "something like 3,000 armed elements plus 1,000 militia," or irregulars, belonging to Mr. Arafat's wing of the PLO, who have been under attack for the past month by Syrian-backed rebels.

He said Mr. Arafat told him in a telephone conversation Friday their destinations would include Tunisia and Yemen.

They would travel aboard chartered vessels, although Mr. Terzi

Yasser Arafat

did not say who would provide them. Families of the evacuees "can catch up with them later. That is no problem," he added.

Meanwhile, U.N. officials were at a loss to come up with an exact precedent for use of the U.N. flag in the way now proposed, although it has been employed in many situations over the past 38 years.

It was flown on ships that cleared the Suez Canal after the 1956 Suez war, and helped protect land convoys that, from 1949 to 1967, travelled regularly between West Jerusalem and an Israeli enclave on Mount Scopus, across Jordanian territory.

PLO feud to lead OIC agenda

DHAKA (R) — Islamic foreign ministers will discuss ways of healing the bloody rift in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at a five-day conference of Muslim states opening here on Tuesday, conference sources said Saturday.

Officials from across the Islamic world, beset by political and economic problems, meet in the Bangladesh capital Sunday to draw up an agenda for the ministerial conference.

Restoring unity to the ranks of the PLO is expected to be a top item and the Bangladesh government has erected hoardings near the conference centre, carrying slogans like "brothers should not kill brothers" and "the PLO must unite."

Diplomatic sources said the conference was expected to support a Saudi-Syrian peace package which includes the withdrawal of

PLO chief Yasser Arafat's fighters from the north Lebanese port of Tripoli.

The gathering of the 42-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which has its permanent headquarters in Jeddah, is also likely to urge the Muslim World to help end the split between Mr. Arafat and PLO rebels.

The meeting will give full support to the Palestinian cause and stress the futility of trying to bring peace to the Middle East without solving the Palestinian problem, conference sources said.

It will also demand immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

In a statement quoted by Bangladesh radio Saturday morning, OIC Secretary-General Habib Chatbi criticised the new strategic

cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel and said it constituted a major threat to Arab and Islamic nations.

Delegates appear divided over the Cyprus issue. While some would like to steer the conference towards recognition of the self-proclaimed republic on the Turkish part of the divided island, others told Reuters they wanted to avoid the issue.

The conference, which takes place ahead of a scheduled Islamic summit in Morocco next month, is being held amid stringent security measures following anti-government clashes in Dhaka and the main port of Chittagong earlier this week.

Conference sources said the meeting would probably issue a new appeal to Iran and Iraq to end their three-year-old war.

Top-level reshuffle happens in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's five military leaders who have ruled the country since the 1980 coup Saturday completed handing over their posts to newly-promoted generals in advance of the formation of an elected government next week.

In a special ceremony at general staff headquarters in Ankara, Gen. Nurettin Ersin gave up his position as commander of the army to Gen. Necdet Urug, who Friday relinquished his former post as commander of land forces.

Gen. Ersin remains chief of staff, a post he took over from President Kenan Evren earlier this year.

The commanders of the air force, navy and gendarmerie relinquished their posts over the past two days.

Gen. Evren and the four generals made up the National Security Council (NSC) which seized power in the coup and will continue to rule until the parliament elected last month chooses its speaker and assembly officers.

The 399-seat legislature convenes Sunday for an election of a speaker and general election winner Turgut Ozal, leader of the conservative Motherland Party, is expected to form a new civilian administration early next week.

The NSC members are not retiring, however, as they will form a special council to advise the president for the remaining six years of his term.



Kenan Evren

Gen. Evren himself was elected the country's president for a six-year term earlier this year.

Referring to the military changes, he said: "If a person does not know when to leave his duties, he will be thrown out. So all my friends decided to hand over when the time came." President Evren, who later arrived in Amman for an official visit to Jordan (story on page 1), said he was not anxious about leaving the country at a time of change.

"If I don't trust my countrymen, what can I do alone?" he asked. In one of his last acts before parliament takes over legislation, the NSC Friday ratified an act rendering all members of the government since 1980 immune from prosecution for any action they took while in office.

Siege of Shouf mountain village gets top priority, Shultz tells Gemayel

WASHINGTON (R) — Plans are under way for the Lebanese government to extend its authority, partly by lifting the siege of a village in the Shouf mountains, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Friday.

Mr. Shultz, speaking after talks with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, said the specific steps in mind were to end the siege of what was described as a Christian village and to extend civil authority in foreign-occupied areas.

Mr. Gemayel stood beside Mr. Shultz at the State Department on the Lebanese President's second day of Washington talks.

"We have imparted to ourselves a genuine sense of urgency on the

need to work on these (Lebanese) problems," Mr. Shultz said.

Both sides wanted to see a strong central government and the talks had identified a number of "concrete, intermediate things that we feel are important to do, and we are making plans to carry them out."

Giving two examples, he said: "We want to see if the siege can be lifted (at) a besieged village. We want to look to the question of greater civil authority in occupied areas."

Mr. Gemayel said after his talks with Mr. Reagan and Mr. Shultz he hoped that "some very important things" would be accomplished in a few weeks.

Marine Corps initiates production in U.S. of Israeli weapons system

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps in recent weeks has quietly initiated the first production in the United States of a major Israeli weapons system, a concrete example of the growing military relationship between the two nations, Pentagon sources told the Washington Times newspaper on Friday.

The Marine Corps recently awarded an initial contract to McDonnell Douglas Corp. as-

ronautics division in Titusville, Fla., for the production of an assault missile, which will be used against bunkers, pillboxes, buildings and other "hard" targets, the newspaper quoted the Pentagon sources as saying.

It will replace the old Satchel charge, which had to be placed right next to the target, and the Light Anti-tank Weapon (LAW), a disposable rocket which received at best mixed reviews from

the troops who used it in Vietnam. The new, Shoulder-Fired, multi-purpose, Assault Weapon (SFAW) will allow a soldier to destroy a target from a distance of up to 250 metres, the newspaper said.

It will be manufactured in the United States under licence to Israeli military industries of Tel Aviv, the sources were quoted as saying.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Koran
16:45 Cartoons
17:10 Children's Programmes
18:00 Survival
18:45 Local Programme
19:30 Life and Health Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local Series
21:30 Arabic Variety
22:30 News Summary
23:10 News Summary

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 A special programme on Turkey
21:00 Towards 2000
21:10 The Citadel - Episode 8
22:00 News in English
22:15 Best Seller: Thorn Birds - Episode 4

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & party on 9560 KHz. SW

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 News Bulletin
08:00 News Summary
08:30 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
09:30 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Catch the Words
10:40 News Bulletin
11:00 News Summary
11:30 Science Report
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Instruments
13:00 News Summary
13:30 News Summary
14:00 News Summary
14:30 News Summary
15:00 News Summary
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
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22:00 News Summary
22:30 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
23:30 News Summary
24:00 News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsday 06:30 The English Air
06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:30 British Press Review 07:30 Letterbox 07:30 Flanders and Swann 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsday 08:30 Jazz for the Asking 09:00 World News 09:30 News about Britain 09:30 From Our Own Correspondent 09:30 A Closer Look 09:30 Recording of the Week 10:00 World News 10:00 Reflections 10:15 The Pleasure's Yours 11:00 World News 11:00 British Press Review 11:15 Science in Action 11:45 Sports Review 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:00 News about Britain 13:15 Letter from America 13:30 Baker's Half Dozen 13:30 News about Britain 13:45 Letter from America 14:00 Play of the Week 15:00 World News 15:00 Commentary 15:15 Good Books 15:30 Clinging to the Wreckage 15:45 The Sandi Jones Request Show 16:30 The Ulster Defence Regiment 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 From the Promenade Concerts 18:00 World News 18:00 Commentary 18:15 From Our Own Correspondent 18:30 World Phone-In 18:35 Financial Review 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:00 Reflections 19:00 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsday 20:30 Quote, Unquote 21:00 Pled Piper 21:15 The Tightrope Men 22:00 World News 22:00 Commentary 22:15 Letterbox 22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 At Home With... 23:15 The Pleasure's Yours 24:00 World News 00:00 Science in Action 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:00 Commentary 01:15 Letter from America 01:30 Detective

VOICE OF AMERICA

KHz: 1200, 5905, 7200, 13205, 17275

05:00 The Breakfast Show: News, Information, Entertainment, Sports, Music, and more. 06:00 Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Report, Interview, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, News Summary at 30 minutes past the hour. 17:00 News 17:10 News Horizons and News Products 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoints 18:30 Music USA Standards 19:00 News 19:10 Critic's Choice.

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

FILM

"Alphaville" by Jean-Luc Goddard at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

"Orientalist" paintings at the Alia Art Gallery.
"Electrification" at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 66515
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquity of Jordan. Jabel Al Qaf'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzakab, Jabel Lunsheidi. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum):

Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc.

Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

Service Clubs

Lease Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel. 1:30 p.m.
Lease Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel. 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel. 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

Churches

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lunsheidi. 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71531.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.

Prayer Times

06:54 Fajr
06:52 (Sunrise) Shuruq
12:36 Jeddah (SV)
14:12 'Asr
16:30 Maghrib
17:58 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia International department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:30 Cairo (EA)
08:00 Agaba (RJ)
08:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Dhabran, Kuwait (RJ)
09:55 Dhabran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:05 Cairo (EA)
10:15 Tripoli, Larnaca (LN)
10:40 Kuwait (KAC)
10:50 Jeddah (SV)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
11:30 Baghdad (LA)
17:00 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:35 London, Paris (RJ)
18:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:40 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:00 Zurich, Damascus (SR)
20:05 Cairo (EA)
20:30 Athens (OA)
20:40 London (BA)
21:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:30 Cairo (RJ)
08:45 Baghdad (RJ)
01:00 Cairo (EA)

DEPARTURES

06:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:45 Damascus, Frankfurt (LF)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:40 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:00 Cairo (EA)
10:25 Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 Jeddah (SV)
12:10 Riyadh, Dhabran (SV)
15:45 Cairo (EA)
15:30 Larnaca, Tripoli (LN)
15:40 Kuwait (KAC)
16:30 Baghdad (LA)
16:30 Jeddah (SV)
19:30 Kuwait, Dhabran (RJ)
19:40 Jeddah (SV)
19:40 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

19:45 Damascus (RJ)

19:50 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:15 Baghdad (RJ)
20:30 Cairo (RJ)
21:30 Cairo (EA)
21:15 Dubai, Mascot (RJ)
21:30 Bangkok (RJ)
21:40 Baghdad, London (BA)
02:00 Cairo (RJ)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in Jls
Belgian franc 67.3/ 67.7
Dutch guilder 121.6/ 122.3
Egyptian guinea 331.6/ 335.3
French franc 44.9/ 45.1
Iraqi dinar 349.1/ 357.5
Italian lire (for 100) 22.6/ 22.8
Japanese yen (for 100) 158.4/ 159.4
Kuwaiti dinar 1268.6/ 1273.6
Lebanese lira 70.3/ 71.1
Omani rial 1071.6/ 1080
Qatari riyal 101.7/ 102.2
Saudi riyal 106.6/ 107.1
Swedish crown 46.3/ 46.6
Swiss franc 169.9/ 170.8
Syrian lira 58.5/ 59.3
UAE dirham 101.1/ 101.6
U.K. sterling pound 540.9/ 544.1
U.S. dollar 370.5/ 372.5
W. German mark 136.1/ 136.9

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with medium and high clouds. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C

Amman 7/22
Agaba 12/27
Deserts 6/23
Jordan Valley 14/27

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 22, Agaba 27. Hum

Chamber of Industry goes to polls to elect sixth board of directors

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Chamber of Industry Sunday holds the elections for its new board. Nominations closed on Nov. 20 with a record number of 37 candidates, representing all sectors of industry in Jordan, standing for a place on the 12-member board.

This will be the sixth board since the chamber was established in 1962 and the elected members will hold office for four years.

Sole organisation

The chamber is the sole organisation of manufacturing firms in Jordan and consists of a directorate, associate members and active members to give a total membership of 2,400.

Funded by subscriptions and documentation fees, the chamber provides a wide variety of services to its members including the issuing of certificates of origin, letters of introduction and commercial sponsorship.

It also maintains close contact with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, other government ministries and departments where the chamber acts as a representative on behalf of its members and the manufacturing sector.

Other important activities of the chamber include sponsoring inward and outward trade missions, joint ventures, and exhibitions in addition to supplying information on free trade zones, industrial estates and the 1981-85 Five Year development plan.

The chamber's reference library contains statistical reports and economic laws as well as published information regarding domestic industry and foreign trade.

All Dajani, who has been director of the Chamber of Industry for 20 years, spoke to the Jordan Times about the aims of the chamber and the problems facing industry in Jordan.

He said that the chamber believes in the principles of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Hassan that Jordan should be a model of a developing country and develop its

activities in terms of quality. Mr. Dajani stressed the need for the output of quality products to give Jordan a good reputation in manufacturing, thereby widening its export market.

'Quality certificate'

With this objective in mind, the chamber plans to introduce a "quality certificate", based on tests conducted by the department of standards in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), industrial laboratory where the analysis of manufactured products is carried out.

The major problems in industry at present are a lack of diversification, marketing, high energy costs and low productivity, Mr. Dajani said.

He outlined some of the schemes that have been initiated to try and improve the situation such as the training of managers by the Jordan Management Institute, which was founded by the chamber.

Little can be done about the energy costs other than increasing efficiency through the employment of new technology and this is being encouraged through research at the University of Jordan, Mr. Dajani said. In addition, loans and assistance are available to encourage more diversification, he added.

Competitive footing

Mr. Dajani explained that the government's plan of approved industry, which came into operation in April of this year, gave Jordanian products a more competitive footing by allowing them a 15 per cent margin over similar goods from abroad to allow for higher production costs in Jordan.

The law also means that government departments and municipalities can no longer import commodities without duty.

Mr. Dajani said that this law had already benefited 41 local firms.

The candidates standing for the board election in general believe that in its present capacity, the chamber has done a lot towards

providing an information service, but that it is restricted in actively pursuing the interests of Jordanian industry.

Mr. Zeid Shasha told the Jordan Times: "Industry in Jordan is a refugee. Immediate measures are needed to give it a firm base and protection from the daily threat of collapse."

Mr. Shasha is standing as one of a slate of 12, eight of whom have been board members in the past, and he outlined the plans of the group if they are elected.

He said that the group would like to see the chamber becoming more representative of Jordanian industry and that it should have more say in policies regarding the industrial sector.

Mr. Shasha emphasised the need for a systematic approach incorporating a protection system, to encourage the growth of industry, and said that without growth Jordan would always be a Third World country.

The fact that many Jordanians are likely to return from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf areas needing jobs and reducing the injection of cash from abroad are important reasons for establishing and developing industry here, said Mr. Shasha.

These views were also expressed by Mr. Y. A. Zaban who is standing alongside nine others in a group. Mr. Zaban and his group are also very concerned about the plight of industry in Jordan. He said that it needs more support from the government and that the chamber should try and participate in long-term planning to benefit manufacturers.

Both Mr. Zaban and Mr. Shasha's groups feel that all members of the chamber, associate and active members, should be able to vote in the elections in order that the chamber can represent fully the manufacturing industry.

At present, only active members, can participate in voting and many of the small industries are not represented because of this.

The candidates feel that a great deal needs to be done to aid industry and that whoever is elected shares their views and would try to improve the situation.

Traffic chief: Seat belt law a success

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 80 per cent of the drivers in Jordan have started using the seat belts in their cars, according to Lt.-Col. Hosni Alaaeddin, director of the highway patrol unit at the Public Security Department.

The enforcement of a law requiring drivers and front seat passengers to use seat belts became effective on Dec. 1 and violators who do not abide by the regulations will be liable to fine of between JD 5 and 15.

Lt.-Col. Alaaeddin said that the department has given drivers one week, starting from Dec. 1 to comply with the regulations after which violators will be fined.

The decision to make the wear-

ing seat belts compulsory was based upon a study by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan which was submitted to the Interior Ministry and other responsible government departments prior to the adoption of the new traffic law by the National Consultative Council earlier this year.

Meanwhile, the total number of road accidents in Jordan in the past week amounted to 157, which resulted in eight deaths and injuries to 89.

A statistical bulletin issued by the Traffic Department said that Amman had the lion's share of the accidents totalling 109, resulting in the death of one person and the injury of 43 others.

Other areas where accidents occurred, the bulletin said, were the Balqa Governorate, Irbid and Karak.

It said that in Aqaba and Ma'an no accidents were reported.

Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub Saturday issued regulations concerning the type and specifications of imported seatbelts.

The instructions, which do not reveal the actual cost of the seatbelts, require shopkeepers who sell them to keep records of the bills, invoices and customs declarations involved to enable the supply control teams to examine them to make sure that the given regulations are being abided by.



Saleh Al Majali

Senate member dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former minister and senate member Saleh Al Majali passed away Saturday at the age of 73.

The late Mr. Majali was born in Karak, in southern Jordan, where he completed his school education before occupying several posts in government offices which eventually included governor of Ajloun, Ma'an, Salt and Nabulus.

In 1956 Mr. Majali was appointed minister of communication and in 1957 was elected to parliament for the Karak constituency. He was made minister of the interior in 1963 and then a member of the senate in 1964.

In 1971, Mr. Majali was appointed secretary-general of the tribal council in Jordan and in 1973 he was appointed King Hussein's adviser on tribal affairs.

Mr. Majali was awarded the Jordanian Al Nahda Medal in 1972.

Trees planted on airport road

AMMAN (Petra) — Planting of ever-green saplings that came as a gift to Jordan from the Turkish government began along the Amman Queen Alia International Airport highway Saturday.

Taking part in planting the trees were Ministry of Agriculture Under-Secretary Salem Al Lawzi and senior ministry officials.

According to the director of the

Ministry of Agriculture's range and afforestation department, Ghaleb Abu Arabi, Turkey in total gave Jordan 1,000 forest trees.

Most of the four-year-old trees are cedar and pines, which were sent as part of the agricultural cooperation between Turkey and Jordan, Mr. Arabi said.

Meeting aims to optimise drug output

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA) will hold Monday a three-day symposium on the drug industry in the Arab World.

During the symposium, an exhibition of specialised industrial equipment and products of the participating companies will be held so as to introduce the latest scientific developments in the drug industry.

On the occasion of this symposium the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, interviewed Dr. Muwaffaq Haddadin, director-general of ACDIMA, who outlined the aims of the symposium.

"The exchange of expertise and views among Arab industrialists in the field of drugs," also to discuss the problems faced by their industries and their future aspirations for the development in the field of drug industry are the two primary

concerns, he said.

Dr. Haddadin said that ACDIMA decided to hold the symposium because the development of the Arab drug industry falls within its authority besides those of other institutions in Arab countries.

According to Dr. Haddadin, the symposium also forms the beginning of a positive dialogue among concerned Arab parties to arrive at a unified drug policy, and to achieve scientific and economic integration among the various activities related to the drug sector in the Arab World.

Participating in the symposium are representatives of Arab health ministries, officials in charge of health and medical affairs, Arab and international drug industries and companies and a large number of Jordanian doctors and pharmacists.

According to Dr. Haddadin, a large part of the symposium will be devoted to studying the pos-

Senate speaker criticises U.S. support for Israel

Tarawneh: Agreement will harm America's standing

AMMAN (Petra) — Senate Speaker Ahmad Tarawneh Saturday spoke of the adverse effects the U.S.-Israeli military and political agreement will have on the Arab World in general and America's interest in the Middle East region in particular.

Mr. Tarawneh was speaking at a meeting with a visiting U.S. congressional delegation who met with Senate members to discuss Middle East issues.

"The unlimited U.S. material and moral support for Israel can only encourage it to pursue its aggression and expansion in the region," Mr. Tarawneh said.

He went on to say that the U.S.-Israeli agreement can only be considered a reward to Israel

for its aggression and for its rejection of all peace initiatives including President Reagan's peace bid.

During the meeting, Mr. Tarawneh also spoke about Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab lands which he said is "aimed at evacuating the Arab territory of its legitimate owners."

Mr. Tarawneh briefed the delegation on Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Palestine problem and its

demand for a total Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands to facilitate the establishment of a just and durable peace.

The congressional delegation also Saturday called on Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi who spoke about Middle East developments in general and the Palestine issue in particular.

"There can be no just settlement without a total Israeli withdrawal from lands occupied since 1967," the minister said.

He also expressed the hope that the delegation members will closely examine the situation in the region in a manner that will help their countrymen better to understand the situation in this region.

Abu Odeh briefs Soviet press team

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Soviet press delegation visited Saturday Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh to discuss issues connected with the Middle East.

At the meeting, the minister talked about Israel's projected Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal which, he said, "constitutes a new act of aggression against Jordan."

He said that this project will no doubt have an adverse effect on Jordan's economy in general.

Mr. Abu Odeh also spoke about Israel's drive to expel the Arab people from their homeland and its policy of changing the character of the occupied Arab territories.

The delegation later called on Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim who spoke about Israel's illegal practices in the occupied Arab territory its violations of human

rights and its establishment of settlements on Arab lands.

"Jordan is now doing its best to support the steadfastness of the Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule to enable them foil Israel's measures," the minister said.

In the meeting, Mr. Ibrahim also spoke about the conditions of Palestinian refugees in their camps and the hard life they are forced to live as a result of the Israeli occupation of their homeland.

The minister also gave a general review of the Middle East situation to the Soviet delegation.

The delegation, who arrived here Monday, later toured the Palestinian refugee camp near Marka, east of Amman, where they met representatives of the refugees and were briefed on the

social and economic life of the inhabitants.

They were also briefed on the help the refugees get from the Jordanian government and the health and educational services offered to them by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

The delegation, who was accompanied by Jordanian officials, also called at Jordan Television where they inspected its various departments and were briefed by television Director Mohammad Kamal on the station's programmes.

The delegation had in the past two days also visited the Nabatean city of Petra in southern Jordan and the Roman city of Jerash as well as the Jordan Valley where they inspected development projects.

One injured in two car, electricity pylon accident

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One person was injured in a car accident Saturday on the University Road when a Toyota car went out of control and skidded in front of a Lada 1600, hitting the Lada and an electricity pylon.

The driver of the Toyota lost consciousness and was taken to

the hospital in a taxi accompanied by the driver of the Lada before the traffic police arrived on the scene of the accident.

The front part of the Toyota was completely shattered while the Lada was also damaged.

Apart from the cars, the pylon was left still standing despite its base being partially uprooted from its foundation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mufti arrives for social work talks

TUNISIA (Petra) — Minister of Social Development, In'am Al Mufti arrived here Saturday afternoon to lead the Jordanian delegation to the meeting of the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers which opens Sunday. Among the topics to be discussed during the meetings is a draft copy of an Arab social development charter. The council will also discuss a programme for a charter of Arab children's rights to include the formation of an Arab committee for children.

Transport director leaves for meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Transportation Corporation Director Ibrahim Al Mahadin left for Tunisia Saturday to attend the general assembly meeting of the Arab Land Transport Union. On the agenda of the five-day meeting are topics related to land transport in Arab countries and ways of promoting them. Taking part in the meeting will be Arab members of the union.

88 industrial firms licensed this year

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade has granted licences to a total of 88 new industrial firms in the country since the beginning of 1983. It said in a statement that these firms had a total capital of JD 57.313 million. According to the statement, a total of 388,000 shares in Jordanian industrial enterprises were in bought and sold on the Amman Financial Market during September 1983 against 872,000 in the same month of 1982.

Postal centres aimed at boosting services

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Communications has started the setting up of eight joint postal service centres in the Karak and Ma'an Governorates as a part of its plans aimed at developing postal services all over the country. The Ministry's under-secretary, Mansour Ibn Tarif said that the centres will help concentrate telephone and postal services in villages and population centres.

Madaba crafts zone gets go ahead

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani Saturday gave the go-ahead to a contract to execute the first stage of the industrial-handicraft zone project in Madaba. The first stage, expected to cost JD 600,000, entails the building of 97 stores, and a cafeteria.

Municipality returns from planning talks

AMMAN (Petra) — An Amman municipal delegation returned from the U.S. after a two week visit held talks with municipal planning and traffic planning training municipality personnel. The delegation during its visit also contracted two British experts to work in the field of municipal engineering. The cost of this operation will be covered by a grant from the U.S.

Agri seminar highlights marketing, pricing problems

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A three day seminar entitled "Aspects and Possibilities of Rural Development in Jordan" was held at the International Hotel this week by the German Foundation for International Development and the Goethe Institute. According to participants, the seminar proved not only informative and practical, but also a worthwhile opportunity to exchange views and discuss important subjects concerning development in Jordan.

Attending the seminars and discussions were representatives from the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, the West German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GIZ), experts from departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, representatives from the University of Jordan, Jordanians who had received training in West Germany, and representatives from the Jordan Cooperatives Organisation (JCO).

Also attending were the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Hermann Munz, Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, under-secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Hassan Nabulsi, director of the JCO, who made the opening speeches.

The first lecture was given by Dr. A. Basler from the Federal Institute for Agricultural Research, Braunschweig in which discussed the importance of agricultural and rural development in the Third World and developing countries.

He emphasised the problems caused by the migration of people from the rural districts to urban areas and outlined incentives

such as better housing, amenities and schooling in the rural areas to reduce the migration. The need for agricultural development in these areas was also stressed as it provides jobs in addition to supplying the urban areas with produce.

It was pointed out in the discussion that followed that the JCO and Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) have implemented many such schemes in the Jordan Valley with satisfactory results and that the population in the area had increased due to better facilities.

Dr. Basler went on to discuss marketing problems of produce referring to storage problems for perishable goods, prices, bottlenecks and competition. This topic resulted in lively debate and discussion as this is an important issue for Jordan at present with traditional markets in the Gulf closing, and over-production for local needs of tomatoes and cucumbers. The participants criticised what these described as a lack of agricultural policy as farmers are producing for export rather than self-sufficiency but the high production costs in Jordan, together with insufficient controls in quality control and packing, reduce its competitiveness regarding exports.

Suggestions made on how to improve the situation included more market research, especially the possibility of exporting to Europe in winter, and an improvement in the rotation system to use the land more efficiently for a wider range of crops. Improved extension facilities and closer cooperation between the government's various organisations and the farmers were also recommended.

The subject of marketing continued on the second day of the seminar with a series of talks given by Mr. Moussa Arafah, deputy general director of the JCO, Dr. Suleiman Arabiyat, head of Department of Agricultural Economy and Extension at the University of Jordan, Mr. Mazen Abdul Kader, director of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, Mr. Bassam Nabulsi, director of the Department of Economy and Extension at the University of Jordan, Mr. Mazen Abdul Kader, director of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, Mr. Bassam Nabulsi, director of the Department of Economy and Planning (Ministry of Agriculture), and Mr. Abdul Fattah Hemrani, director of the Fruit and Vegetable Market in Amman.

The speakers outlined the main problems in marketing as a lack of coordination between various organisations, and a need to improve all aspects of marketing from research to packing and quality control.

Mr. Nabulsi spoke about the laws governing marketing practices especially the restrictions on imports and exports and the politics of trade with Syria. Mr. Hemrani explained the role of the fruit and vegetable market in reporting on quantities sold, prices, and storage on a daily basis. He mentioned that since the beginning of the year, JD 56 million worth of produce had passed through the market.

The main issue of discussion was on prices for produce which are fixed by a Ministry of Finance Committee with representatives from the JCO, JVA and the Jordan Valley Farmers Association (JVFA). The daily fluctuation in

prices paid to the farmer is due to the dealers, who buy at higher prices if their is a demand from the Gulf areas for imports. Farmers also receive higher prices for better quality produce that is well packed. The price paid to the farmer also depends on whether the produce is sold to a private dealer in the valley or brought to Amman by the farmer and then sold.

The new marketing company that has recently been set up by the government hopes to exercise greater control of prices, packaging and quality control by ensuring that all produce is graded before leaving the valley or being processed in the plants.

Although some policies were criticised in the discussion, it was generally agreed that the government should intervene in controlling imports and exports to ensure a fair deal for the farmer. Dr. Johannes Feichert, management advisor to the JCO summed up the discussion saying that more of the responsibility should be taken by the farmers themselves and the JCO to ensure that there is not a surplus and although plans for agricultural production are dependent on water supply and the weather, there should be some plan.

The role of the cooperatives was again discussed in another lecture given by Saul Goussous from the JCO in which he described the aid that is given to farmers through seasonal loans, inputs and advice as well as the services given to rural communities including housing, electricity, education and health. He emphasised that the various cooperatives enrich the life of small communities by bringing together the efforts of the farmers to providing services. There

are at present 413 cooperatives in Jordan covering human needs. The cooperative is financed by the shares of its members together with credits from the JCO as a soft loan.

The final day of the seminar was spent in the Jordan Valley where the participants toured the Al Arda marketing and processing factory which will be one of the 3 centres operating as the new Agricultural Marketing Centre. The centre is the only one functioning at present with a capacity of processing 30 tonnes per hour. As all the produce is passing through this factory at the moment there is a heavy load, but the situation will be greatly eased when the other centres in North Shuna, Wadi Yabis and Saifi are operational.

The participants also visited the South Shuna Grading Station which will be operational in February of next year. The station will be a centre for the farmers to take their produce where they can sell it directly to wholesalers or exporters at fixed prices. Also on this site will be banking facilities and offices for the JVFA, JCO and Agricultural Credit Corporation where the farmers can obtain advice and loans.

Advanced training programmes for agriculture and the problems of Jordanian students on such courses in West Germany were also discussed. Mr. Luder Cammann from the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) described the activities of the DSE in providing specialised training courses in Germany if facilities are not available in the students' country. He DSE provides

scholarships for students from developing countries

each year and gives training in new techniques and methods.

The problem of language emerged as a major problem for many students who encountered difficulties with dialects despite studying German for 3 months previous to departure. Also social re-adjustment was a problem for many students who felt lonely away from their families.

It was suggested that the students could stay with selected families in Germany which would help them settle in faster in addition to improving their spoken German. The question whether such specialised training in an industrialised country was of any benefit to a developing country such as Jordan was also raised. Mr. Cammann said that there are changes in the curriculum and a careful balance between theory and practical work in order to make the courses more applicable to countries such as Jordan where the equipment and situation is different.

The length of the courses was also discussed so that the students could receive sufficient training for 6 months or for a year, enabling the students to study and gain an insight into life in Germany without losing contact or risking his job at home.

In concluding the seminar, Dr. Munz thanked the participants for their contributions and praised the close ties between Jordan and West Germany. Although no recommendations were put forward the seminar was very useful for exchanging views and promoting understanding of important issues. Dr. Feichert told the Jordan Times.

A.C.

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The better argument

IT CANNOT be wholly true that the Reagan administration has turned to Israel for strategic cooperation only to demonstrate its frustration over the stalemate in Lebanon and over what it perceives as the Soviet Union's role behind Syrian intransigence on Middle East issues. If it indeed was the Syrian presence in Lebanon and the Soviet "threat" in the region that weighed most heavily in President Reagan's decision to bail Israel out of its current troubles in return for no political concessions from the Israelis on his Middle East initiative, then surely the U.S. president might have had a number of different avenues to explore before making his decision.

A message from King Fahd, conveyed by the Saudi ambassador in Washington, to the U.S. president during Israeli Premier Shamir's talks in the U.S. last week was just one of the avenues for a Lebanon settlement which the U.S. administration could consider. In return for some form of American pressure on Israel to soften its stand on Lebanon, as the Saudi envoy to the U.S. indicated after delivering the message, Saudi Arabia was more than willing to press the Syrians for withdrawing their troops from Lebanese territory — and results were almost guaranteed.

In that way, rather than by undermining the Arab moderates' position through forging closer ties with the Israelis, the Americans could solve not only the problem of Lebanon more easily and more quickly but also could strengthen the hands of the Arab moderates to shore up more Arab support for the wider question of a Middle East settlement, based on the Reagan proposals of last year's Sept. 1 and the Arab plan adopted at Fez during the same month.

The Americans might have not wanted to accept Prince Bandar's remarks that Israel was more of a liability to U.S. interests in the Middle East than a strategic partner, but they could — and in our opinion should — have taken the Saudi message exactly as it was. Only then could there have been real hope to move things forward on the question of Lebanon and the Middle East generally.

Granted, Washington's latest step to prop up Israel again at the expense of the Arabs was neither a momentary and shocking decision for us nor a move isolated from the rest of what is happening here in this region and in the U.S. itself. But the theory that it was taken merely to demonstrate American frustration over Lebanon and to counter Soviet presence in the region is hardly one that stands the test.

Only two days ago, a senior U.S. administration official was quoted as saying that Saudi Arabia's "strong interest" in settling the Lebanon problem "is an asset". We can only wonder what has happened to that argument.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Return to self-strength

NOW THAT American-Israeli agreement on cooperation in military and economic affairs has become a reality, the Arabs must seek a guarantee that will control U.S. and Israeli behaviour in this region. This is particularly necessary if Middle Eastern countries are to risk having confidence in U.S. credibility from now on. Since no one can trust the U.S. behaviour in the region and because American credibility has now been transformed into a mirage due to U.S. policies and actions in the region, the Arabs have no alternative left but to build up their own self-strength and unite their ranks so as to agree on a unified strategy to regain their rights and serve their future generations.

The U.S.-Israeli agreement forces us to take this course more than at any other time in the past but does not mean that we should close the door to dialogue with others. We can keep the door open but we must be very alert and careful so that the dialogue will not be exploited. However, a mere dialogue can never recover our rights if it is not coupled with action and preparations to regain our rights through our own self-strength and power.

Al Dustour: Undermining essence of peace

THE OUTCOME of the new Israeli-U.S. agreement has become manifest in the sudden escalation of Israeli settlements in areas surrounding the occupied West Bank town of Nablus. Since U.S. assistance to Israel is unlimited in nature and scope we cannot predict the dimensions of American aid to Israel in this respect. We also wonder how the U.S. can continue to maintain the claim that it works for peace in our region while it offers aid to Israel to build these settlements on Arab lands. The United States has also offered Israel weapons, economic aid and technological know-how in accordance with the new agreement. All this aid can and will not doubt be used to bolster Israel's might and enable it to launch further acts of aggression against the Arabs.

We cannot believe any claims by Washington that it is really interested in establishing peace because the help it gives to Israel is undermining the very essence of peace and destroying any chance that for it. The United States is proving beyond doubt that it gives total support to Israel's policies under pressure from election interests. Thus and sacrificing the long-term interests it has with the Arabs. The U.S. is also proving that it cannot shoulder the international responsibility expected from a superpower.

Sawt Al Shaab: A sad contrast

WE CANNOT help drawing a contrast between the outcome of the most recent visits to Washington by President Gemayel of Lebanon and Israeli premier Yitzhak Shamir. President Gemayel was in Washington trying to implement the resolution reached by the Lebanese factional leaders at their meeting in Geneva. Gemayel also went to Washington to discuss with President Reagan the implementation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. It was thought that the United States was convinced that Israeli troops must withdraw from Lebanon in order to pave the way for the withdrawal of other troops from that country. U.S. officials made statements recently which suggested that Washington was about to take steps to bring about an Israeli withdrawal.

Yet the outcome of the U.S.-Israeli talks totally contradicted these indicators and undermined the expectations about the possibility of forcing Israel to withdraw its troops from Lebanon. The Israelis and Americans did not even make any mention of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank. All that the talks resulted in was more U.S. economic and military aid for Israel. So Gemayel came out with empty hands from his talks in Washington unlike Shamir who came out successful in obtaining for Israel unlimited aid that will undoubtedly help Israel to maintain its troops in Lebanon, consolidate its hold over the West Bank and pursue its policies of launching acts of aggression on the Arabs.

COME TO THINK OF IT

Dialogue with a madman

By Ibrahim Abu Nab

LOCAL LEGEND has it that a madman had at one time abducted a child and ran up with him to the top of a minaret where he threatened to throw him from the top. A big crowd thronged around the minaret trying to talk him out of the evil idea, but he would not listen. They offered him a ransom, but he wouldn't take it. They tried to know what in the world he wanted, but the man would not budge. They even promised to try and heal him of his "madness" if he would just give them a chance and come down with the boy, but again the attempt was futile.

Finally another madman was brought in on the rescue operation, whereupon he took a wooden stick in his hand and waved it at the culprit shouting

to him: "If you do not come down with the child safe, I shall saw the minaret with this stick and cause it to fall down like an amputated tree." The idea worked.

The story is brought somehow to mind by the recent American-Israeli agreements on "strategic co-operation." Not only do the accords violate all sense and defy all rational analysis, they are also baffling because there are so many madmen at the top vying with each other to drop the child against all the sensible arguments that have been shouted.

Take, for instance, the question of the Jewish colonisation of the occupied Arab territories. The U.S. has been saying for some time that such col-

onisation is a hindrance to peace in the Middle East. People assumed therefore that the U.S. was interested in peace. Apologists for the U.S. kept saying that Israel could not be prevailed upon by any means to give up the child or at least put a freeze on settlements until such time when peaceful negotiations could be started with the Arabs.

The same apologists argued that President Reagan could not, for important internal considerations, put economic pressure on Israel in the form of sanctions or cuts in aid and that he prefers to wait and let the Israeli extremists simmer in their own stew.

Such arguments sounded plausible to a certain extent in view of the fact that the Israeli

government was spending on settlements \$400-\$500 million a year, or about one-fifth of the enormous amount of aid (\$2.5 billion) provided annually by the United States.

It would be impossible for Israel to continue this lavish expenditure on a controversial programme without cutting on its social services and lowering the standard of living of the Israeli population.

Observers thought that with Begin out of the way and the Israeli economy in shambles, the new madman at the top in Israel would finally be brought to his senses by the economic realities, and that all President Reagan had to do was to act in the "I told you so" style.

Few, if any, had expected the exact opposite to happen. The

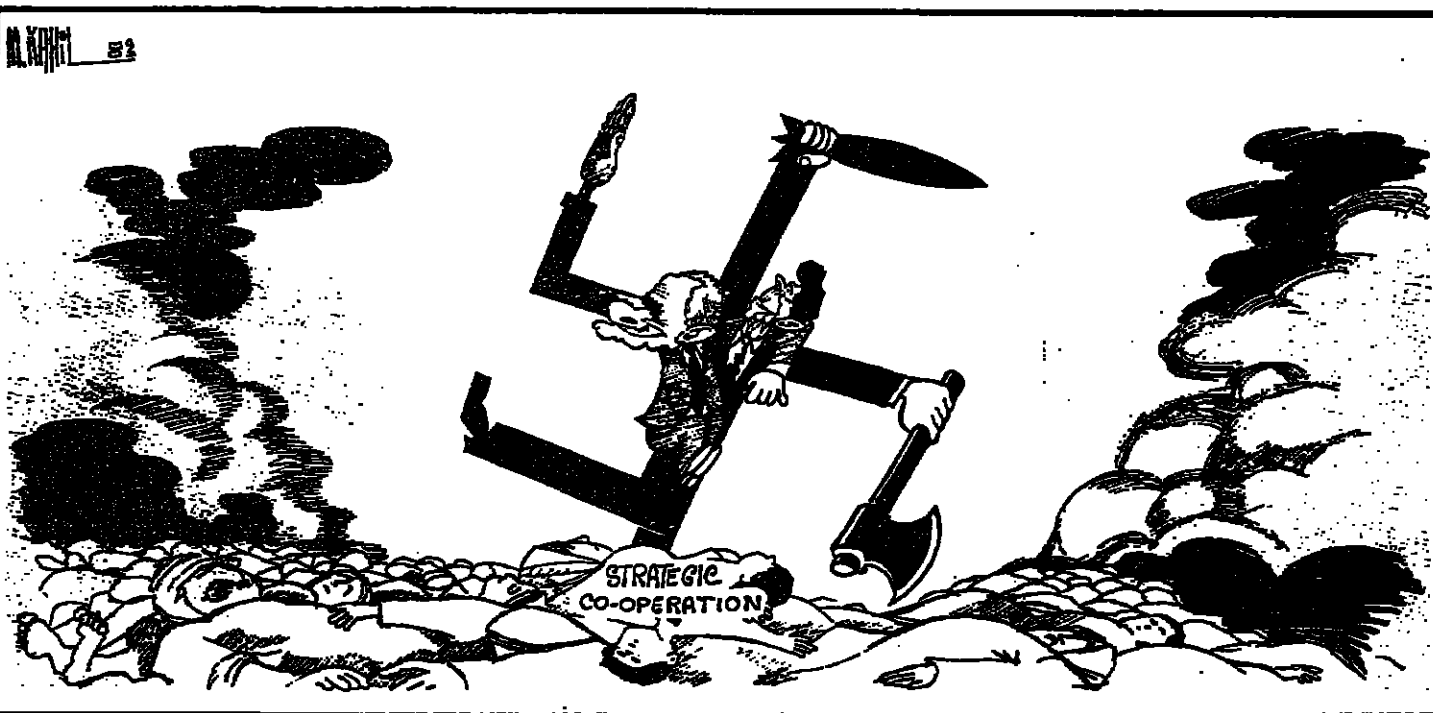
American bonanza provided to Israel as a result of this week's strategic accords made people wonder about the real intentions of the United States. Can such lavish rewards for crime induce the Israeli extremists to let the child go or would they produce exactly the opposite results?

The other madman at the top is now saying that the American-Israeli accords are in reality a message directed to Syria and the Soviet Union. According to the New York Times, "a joint political military group is to plan exercises and counter threats to the Middle East posed by the Soviet Union and Syria."

This apparently presumes that the new meaning of the term "Middle East" is Israel.

that Syria is an outside power and that the U.S. is the sole and legitimate custodian of the area. It also presumes that the moderate Arab regimes in the area are in fact so much moderate that they would stop considering Israel as the main source of danger and instability in the area and that they would see no message to them or their peoples in the new American-Israeli agreements.

One wonders whether policy makers in Washington have been reading the press editorials emanating from Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Egypt and other "friendly" countries during the last few days. One also wonders whether the madman at the top of the minaret could ever understand the meaning of the calls from below.



Iran's political decisions are of little value unless approved by Khomeini

By Paul Eedle

TEHRAN — From a house and a mosque on the edge of Tehran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini rules revolutionary Iran by guiding and scolding the collection of power centres making up the Islamic Republic.

The republic's four-year-old constitution gives Khomeini wide powers, including the right to declare war, make peace and appoint top military commanders and judges.

He makes many important decisions and no policy suggested by a lesser figure carries weight until he has endorsed it.

Khomeini is often involved in minor matters and the narrow lanes leading to his house are crowded with visitors ranging from powerful politicians to junior bureaucrats and families of people killed in the war with Iraq.

Large groups see him in a mosque next door to his house. The mosque's grey concrete walls are bare, except for a few revolutionary posters, while the carpets are cheap and simple.

Visitors trickle in and sit cross-legged on the floor. Minor officials, workers, and even a handful of children mingle with commanders of the armed forces, ministers and turbaned religious leaders.

On one wall, a concrete balcony with a low railing juts out at head height. Two hours after the first visitors arrive in the mosque, Khomeini appears here through a sliding metal door.

Wearing a black turban and black cloak over a grey robe, the bearded Ayatollah walks slowly, hand raised in greeting, as the people below roar slogans and wave fists in salute.

Khomeini sits down in an armchair covered with a blue cloth and an aide puts a stand with microphones in front of him. After hearing a few words from a spokesman for his visitors, he speaks. He lectures without notes, starting in a hoarse voice that betrays his 82 or so years.

But he gathers strength as he warms to his theme, perhaps berating foreign powers for supporting Iraq in the Gulf war or urging different groups of clergy to stop squabbling before the parliamentary elections.

When Khomeini stops speaking, the crowd bursts into chants again. He stands up without help from his aides, at least at one recent audience attended by foreign reporters, and vanishes through the sliding door.

The alley outside the mosque, which also leads to his house, is blocked by a three-metre (yard) high metal barrier covered with

cloth in the red, white and green of the republic's flag.

Local residents say the house is a mansion that belonged originally to a wealthy sweet manufacturer who fled into exile.

All that can be seen from the alley outside is the top corner of a building with two windows. The house is surrounded by trees and the brown rock of the Elborz mountains rises sharply behind.

In law and in fact, Khomeini is the only person in Iran with authority over both the government and the various revolutionary organisations spawned by the social, political and economic tumult that accompanied the Shah's overthrow.

Khomeini has the power to appoint the commander of the most important revolutionary organisation, The Revolutionary Guards, a force which emerged as a parallel to the regular army.

It fights on the fronts against Iraq, has special responsibility for internal security and supplies the young men who guard the alleys and lanes leading to Khomeini's home.

Khomeini also has special representatives in all key government and revolutionary bodies such as the armed forces, the construction crusade which runs rural building projects, and the four daily newspapers.

He has the final word in the appointment of leaders of the communal Friday prayers in towns and villages, a job through which government policy is conveyed to ordinary people.

No other figure in Iran controls such a network. The president, for example, has authority only over government ministries and is only one member of a committee that sets policy for the war against Iraq.

Khomeini sometimes finds the need to issue decrees or make speeches urging restraint on some revolutionary bodies.

A year ago he issued an eight-point statement ordering security forces and the courts to deal more efficiently and less harshly with people.

Last month, he made a cautionary speech to judges, warning them: "A blunder may result in the death of a man or someone losing his reputation. You should be very careful."

The constitution provides for an elected assembly to choose a successor or a council of successors to replace Khomeini when he dies.

But much of his power comes from personal authority he built up before and during the 1979 revolution, rather than from the letter of the constitution. It is open to question whether any one person will be able to rule in the same way.

Commonwealth: Unique ability to hold together

By Sidney Weiland

NEW DELHI — The Commonwealth, in a fragile series of compromises, has proved again a unique capacity to hold together despite deep political diversity.

As they dispersed Wednesday after a summit meeting of unusual acrimony, leaders of the world's most improbable alliance said they found "much common ground" between them.

The summit managed a consensus on broad issues such as the arms race, Cyprus and South Africa's racial policies. On others, there was no way of bridging a profound North-South divide.

Many new ideas emerged on how to tackle the world's problems. But for many, it was enough that the Commonwealth's resilient ability to survive had been underscored once again.

The 48 Commonwealth nations are a mix of races, cultures and political systems, linked mainly by the English language and a common history of long years of British rule.

Almost 40 years after Britain began losing its vast empire, most of its former subject nations belong to the impoverished Third World. The majority are non-aligned.

On a range of issues, Britain and three other founder members, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, found themselves alone in defending Western positions.

Of the 48 nations, 17 are in Asia and the Pacific, 15 in Africa, 13 in the Western hemisphere, three in Europe. All except six small island states were at the summit.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal calls the organisation's steady evolution "a continuous co-mingling of the world's variety" which cannot be matched anywhere else.

Apart from the United Nations, it is the only grouping that provides an umbrella for so many disparate views.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, attending his first summit, rejects the concept of a Commonwealth mystique.

But like others at the New Delhi conference, he acknowledged, "there is a special quality or capacity for dialogue within the Commonwealth."

African and Asian leaders agreed the summits, held every two years, are valuable because they span races and ideologies and provide rare opportunities for shirred informalities.

"We spoke in a friendly, frank manner," Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said. "We inter-

rupted each other. Many people addressed each other by their first names."

Mrs. Gandhi, who chaired the summit, is also leader of the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement. Western delegates said she was a vocal and partisan exponent of Third World views.

Mr. Ramphal says informality is a Commonwealth hallmark, especially at summit "retreats" when leaders don leisure wear, dismiss their aides and travel to a resort area for private talks. They spent last weekend in Goa, western India.

"They were really talking to each other, they got to each other, sometimes failing, sometimes succeeding," Mr. Ramphal says.

While Western government chiefs concede the majority is basically suspicious of the West, they say the summits offer a useful forum at which Western viewpoints can be put across.

British officials said Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher missed no chance to explain NATO thinking.

They said she succeeded in toning-down a summit communiqué that might otherwise have taken an ever harsher line against the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada and U.S.-African policies.

At the end, the summit blamed the United States for holding up the independence of Namibia (South West Africa) by demanding withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as a prior condition.

But the Commonwealth's strict rule of consensus, there are no votes, thwarted Indian and African attempts to condemn the Grenada invasion. A proposal to get the Commonwealth to call for U.S. troops to leave the island was also rejected.

The summit patched up a quarrel between angry Africans and six Caribbean states which supported the U.S. action. Agreement was quickly reached on Commonwealth aid for Grenada.

Mr. Ramphal described the compromise as an example of what he called the Commonwealth's ability to apply a "healing touch."

The summit failed to agree on Third World demands for a world monetary conference, an idea viewed as suspect by the Reagan administration.

Instead, it called for further studies. A long debate on the Third World's economic problems saw New Zealand defect from the relatively rich "North" to support grievances voiced by the debt-plagued "South."

Nigeria: The lean years to come

President Shagari has been returned to office with overwhelming support at a time of unprecedented depression for his once-booming country. Quentin Peel reports on the task that lies ahead.

A visitor to Lagos today might reasonably expect to be regaled with horror stories about the parlous state of the economy: how inflation is rampant, unemployment soaring, imports disappearing from the shelves, and an International Monetary Fund (IMF) inspired austerity budget is just around the corner.

The truth is rather different. The all-consuming topic of conversation seems to be who will win the election in 1987, when President Shagari ends his second, and last, four-year term of office.

Given that Nigerian voters finished a marathon round of electioneering barely two months ago, resulting in a landslide victory for the head of state, and an absolute majority for his National Party of Nigeria in the National Assembly, the speculation seems almost indecent.

One explanation would have it that Nigerians are incorrigible political gamblers; another, that they are simply escapist, unable or unwilling to face up to the uncomfortable demands of the present. Both contain an element of truth.

There is no doubt that the next four years will be critical both for the economic and political development of Nigeria. President Shagari's return to office comes at a time of unprecedented economic depression, brought on by the combination of the international oil glut, and a tradition of chronic profligacy in both public and private sectors.

He is therefore being asked to preside over a period of profound structural readjustment in the Nigerian economy, to reduce its overwhelming dependence on oil, and achieve more balanced and steady economic growth. Yet at the same time, he has to prepare the country for a democratic transfer of power to another civilian head of state in 1987, a delicate process which Nigeria has yet to accomplish after 23 years of independence. He also has to tackle the pervasive cancer of corruption, which constitutes a further disastrous drain on the national economy.

First indications are that the president himself is acutely aware of the challenge. He has appointed a new economic management team which includes several highly-regarded technocrats, including two brought in from the private sector — his economic adviser, Chief Philip Asiodu, and his budget adviser, Mr. Gamaliel Onosode. He has also dismissed four-fifths of his former cabinet, keeping only eight out of 45 ministers, and also cutting the total number to 35.

President Shagari's inauguration speech "could have been made by the IMF," according to one Lagos banker. He dwelt on the slump in oil export earnings — from \$22.4 billion in 1980 to an estimated \$9.6 billion in 1983 — the resulting shortage of foreign exchange, and the plight of a manufacturing sector still heavily dependent on imports.

"We will avoid entering into new commitments with a high foreign exchange content," he said. "We will only give serious consideration to projects based on locally available resources, such as the petrochemical and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) projects, which will lead to the revitalisation and diversification of the economy."

The first task for President Shagari's economic team is simply to identify the scale of the problem, when reliable statistics are virtually non-existent. The second is to reach an agreement with the IMF on a stabilisation programme to relieve the immediate foreign exchange crisis.

Both sides insist that substantial progress has been made, but a major difference of principle remains over the issue of devaluation. In addition, the IMF has been side-tracked by its own financing problems, and any loan will now have to be made under the new quotas and rules prevailing after Jan. 1.

The key to the argument is over the need to promote domestic production in Nigeria, both in agriculture and manufacturing, to reduce the country's oil dependence and huge import bill, as against the inflationary effects of a devaluation.

Both the Fund and the Bank argue strongly that the naira has become progressively over-valued during the years of oil boom, thus making imports unnaturally cheap, and discouraging both local manufacturing and agriculture. Financial Times news feature

Handwritten signature or mark.

American fast food chains plan worldwide expansion

By Hugh Paim
Reuter

LONDON — American hamburger chains hoping to spread to India face a major marketing problem — most of the population is vegetarian.

In Korea they like beef but competition is strong from the old favourites like barbecued grasshoppers, bean pancakes and fried silkworm larvae. And of course the traditional *Kimchi* — garlic-laden cabbage.

The Germans insist on beer with their hamburgers while the Arabs abhor it. The Japanese will not eat pizzas with cheese. Kentucky Fried Chicken soared in Jakarta but died in Bangkok.

And over half the globe the whole point of eating out is to do it slowly, with somebody serving you. So the self-serve, take-away, fast food chains must vie to offer service and scads and leisure.

But nothing stops their irresistible spread. From Alice Springs to Uganda they know Colonel Sanders and the big red "M". And if politics or local competition sometimes get in the way, Kentucky can become "Islamic fried chicken" in Tehran, or meet head-on the challenge in Soweto from "upeco wa macho".

One by one the bastions fall. McDonald's plans a hamburger joint in Belgrade next year, possibly the first in the Communist world. And with its 24 outlets in Hong Kong doing great business, it is already dreaming of the untapped millions in China itself.

Trade follows the flag, they used to say in the British empire. But the old colonies knew where to draw the line, so British cooking never spread beyond a few excellent fish and chip shops in Lagos.

But hamburger imperialism was a different thing, and the deployment of fast foods in South East Asia is a legacy of U.S. involvement, even if they jumped the gun in Thailand and Taiwan, meeting a demand from soldiers on leave from Vietnam but folding when the war ended in 1975.

"Hotdogs and hamburgers came with the Americans, but they seem to have left with the GIs," sighed one sponsor in Taipei.

But there as elsewhere the taste for fast foods gradually caught on, and the success of local chains attracted the big U.S. brand names. Now Mister Donut, Dunkin' Donut and Pizza Hut battle for market leadership in Bangkok, and McDonald's plan a belated re-entry there and in Taiwan next year.

Affluent, Westernised Singapore is already in the midst of a fast food blitz, with 50 outlets to serve the island state's 2.5 million people.

They compete through sports sponsorship, cinema and television advertising, and when Kentucky Fried Chicken sought a stock exchange listing last March, its shares were a record 140 times oversubscribed.

In Japan's far bigger market, the growth of fast foods has been explosive since they arrived in the early 1970s. Market leader Mc-

Donald's opened in Tokyo's Ginza shopping area in 1971 and took only \$870,000 that year. The total for 1984 is expected to top \$435 million.

But in Japan and around the world, while the young devour the hamburgers, their elders associate the fast food joints with blue jeans and aimless hanging about and alien culture.

The response to the threat has varied. Morocco banned McDonald's altogether, protecting both its way of life and its thousands of traditional *kebab* and *cake* stalls.

The French succumbed to the self-proclaimed biggest Burger King restaurant in the world on the Champs-Elysees, but have struck back by opening croissanteries in the United States.

Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac wants laws to force the chains to clean up the litter of greasy paper and boxes which surrounds them, while the newspaper *Le Figaro* led a campaign to have them closed down because they attracted hoodlums.

It was left to the franchise-holder for McDonald's in Paris of the name at a blow. He struck out on his own, for some unfathomable reason renaming its 14 outlets "O'Kitch". Expensive lawsuits followed and the U.S. chain is now about to start again.

Italy has its own tradition of fast food — bars keep the clients moving by charging them more if they insist on sitting down with their snacks.

It has so far kept out the invaders, and in Naples, which gave

the world the pizza, the five Dell'Amura brothers are thinking of recrossing the Atlantic with their enterprising "pizza a metro" (pizza by the metre).

Using long ovens they produce endless strips of pizza 15-20 cm (6-8 inches) wide and sell it by the slice. "On a good day we sell a kilometre (half a mile)," said Giulio Dell'Amura.

But the Arab response to the fast food threat is perhaps the most subtle — it has made the joint respectable.

"Many Muslims don't like to see alcohol being served and couples in intimate conversation, perhaps even kissing... they want to sit quietly, have a meal and go out," said the manager of one U.S. chain in the Gulf.

So his restaurants, while highly successful, are clean, brightly lit, conservative — and safe.

Predictability may not be what the younger clients are looking for, but the chains regard it as a major selling point.

"People worldwide have got to know that if they come to McDonald's they get a consistently high quality product," said Bob Keyser, McDonald's director of Media Relations.

In Britain, fish and chips (fried potatoes) are still the biggest take away food, while the Germans stick to *Wurst* (sausage) and chips. But there are no chains. In both countries, the native delicacies are sold by individual shops or stalls whose products vary from the delicious to the inedible.

The other main selling point is speed. In a recent test in London



An American teenager enjoys a McDonald hamburger. McDonald is the biggest American fast food chain in the world (file photo).

one chain got its hamburgers to the customer in an average of one minute, 24 seconds.

But this may in fact be the sticking point for less U.S.-influenced parts of the world.

Sri Lanka provides a case in point. The U.S. majors have not penetrated there yet, but when

Mexico's new plans for food sovereignty

By Stephen Addison
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — Mexico has announced a new multi-billion-dollar food plan aimed at achieving "food sovereignty" by 1988 and at improving the quality of food eaten by the country's badly-nourished poor.

The plan calls for 517 billion pesos (\$3.4 billion) to be spent between now and 1988 on a reorganisation of production and distribution, with the emphasis on providing more basic foods like corn, wheat, rice and beans.

The plan says some 19 million Mexicans, mainly in the south and out of a population of 72 million, suffer from a grave deficiency of calories and protein. Thirteen million of them, nearly half under 14 years old, live in rural areas.

Foreign agricultural experts say the plan, announced last month, is the first sign of a coherent food policy since the demise last December of the ill-planned and expensive Mexican Food System (SAM).

Whereas the SAM aimed for self-sufficiency, the new plan aims at "food sovereignty" — a term which has baffled agricultural experts.

"Food sovereignty could mean just about anything," one United States economist said. "As in other Mexican plans, the goals are left vague so no-one can accuse them of failure."

"But at least they now have a plan which calls for future action," he added. "That in itself is a significant step."

Among concrete measures in the plan was a rise in prices paid by the government to agricultural

producers, who now receive around 120 per cent more than a year ago.

The experts say the rise has considerable political significance and is a bid as much to keep the farmers and peasants quiet as to raise production.

Rural workers seem to be more willing to publicise their grievances. Inflation is running at between 70 and 80 per cent a year, and the workers are frustrated at the slow and bureaucracy-ridden progress of Mexico's land reform programme.

Land for all was one of the key battle cries of the 1910 Mexican revolution. Ever since, governments have continued a process of breaking up large private holdings and redistributing land to the people, albeit slowly.

"Politically they have to carry on with it, but agriculturally it makes no sense at all to break up efficient and profitable holdings," one foreign agricultural expert said.

Population growth of 2.7 per cent a year is another great problem for Mexico, which one expert said is becoming less and less able to feed itself.

A rapidly growing population and the system of land distribution are the main reasons why experts believe the new plan's goal of food sovereignty is just a pipe dream.

The plan is significant more through its existence than its proposals, which are vague to say the least," one expert said.

Despite predictions that basic grain imports will fall some four million tonnes next year to five to six million tonnes, he said the long-term trend is away from self-sufficiency.

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SPORTS

Chasing pack losing touch with Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Even with 26 games of the 42-match campaign to go, Liverpool can go ahead and place the order for their 15th championship flag with confidence after a day of shocks at the top of the English first division soccer league.

An 83rd minute goal against Birmingham — inevitably scored by Ian Rush — took Liverpool to the 34-point mark, four clear of West Ham and Manchester United who both suffered 1-0 defeats.

West Ham, second on goal difference, went down at Aston Villa while United were beaten at their Old Trafford home by Everton, Irish international Kevin Sheedy doing his former Liverpool colleagues a huge favour by scoring a 46th minute match-winner.

Fourth-placed Tottenham also watched Liverpool pull further ahead. Their unbeaten 10-game run came to an end when they suffered a 2-1 setback at Norwich and they remain on 28 points alongside Coventry, 4-2 winners at Luton.

Liverpool, missing the injured Kenny Dalglish, found the Birmingham defence in uncompromising mood and when they did break through, goalkeeper Tony Coton appeared to be in unbeatible form.

Then Rush, the top scorer in the first division, latched onto a loose ball six metres out and lashed a blistering volley past the helpless Coton.

It was Rush's 17th goal of the season and United, the only realistic threat to Liverpool's title ambitions, will probably look back on it in anguish come May.

United threatened to sweep Everton off the pitch in a whirlwind start which produced six corners in the first 10 minutes and saw Sheedy clear a Gordon McQueen header off the line with goalkeeper Neville Southall beaten.

But the hurricane slowly died down and Everton gradually ven-

tured out of their own half to wreak more telling damage.

Immediately after the interval, four United Defenders all went for — and missed — a cross from the right Sheedy crashed home a glorious left-footer off the underside of the bar.

Aston Villa striker Paul Ridout emulated Sheedy's performance against West Ham.

He scored what proved to be the winner in the 76th minute then popped up on the goal line to clear

a shot from Dave Swindlehurst 60 seconds from time.

It was another bad afternoon for once-mighty Arsenal, who were knocked out of the League Cup by third division Walsall at Highbury in midweek.

They were beaten 1-0 at home by West Bromwich to slip into the bottom third of the table and increase speculation over the future of manager Terry Neill.

Neill was the subject of protests before and after the game as Arsenal fans called for his removal and the appointment of former hero Malcolm MacDonald, now boss of Fulham, as manager.

Perhaps a change of manager would bring a change of fortune for Charlie Nicholas.

Olympic commission approves drug testing laboratory

LOS ANGELES (R) — A laboratory to carry out sophisticated drug tests on athletes competing in the 1984 Olympic Games has been approved by the medical commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee announced on Thursday.

A three-day test of the laboratory, which will cost more than \$3m, was conducted by a commission representative, Dr. Arnold Beckett, of the University of London, and involved samples of drugs banned by the commission, the Los Angeles Committee said.

Approval of the laboratory, a joint project of the committee and the University of California in Los Angeles, comes less than a month after a committee spokesman said athletes in the Los Angeles games would be tested for excessive amounts of testosterone and caffeine.

Caffeine is a stimulant and testosterone increases a person's strength.

Sixteen athletes were disqualified from the Pan American Games in Caracas earlier this year after they had been tested for using steroids and other drugs.

Anabolic steroids are a synthetic derivative of testosterone.

The Medical Director of the Los Angeles Committee, Dr. Tony Daly, said: "The games will have not only the services of the most sophisticated equipment possible but they will also have outstanding personnel with the scientific ability necessary to administer these tests."

"Our goal was to leave a legacy to develop a permanent scientific facility not only for the 1984 Olympics but also for sports activities after the games. That objective has been achieved," he said.

Gerulaitis ousted from Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Zoltan Kuharszky, playing in only his second grass court tournament, bundled sixth-seeded American Vitas Gerulaitis out of the Australian Open Tennis Championships Saturday.

The Hungarian-born Kuharszky, who defeated the West four years ago, won 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 to earn a third round tie against Swedish Davis Cup player Joachim Nystrom.

Sweden's Mats Wilander was another big name player in danger of going out in the second round when he trailed two sets to one to American Ben Testerman. But the third seed recovered to win 6-4, 4-6, 6-7, 6-3, 6-2.

Top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia cruised into the third round by beating Britain's Jonathan Smith 6-2, 6-2, 6-3.

Afterwards he said he was tired after a long, hard year but still thought he had a good chance of winning his first Grand Slam event.

John McEnroe, seeded to meet Lendl in the final, struggled to find his rhythm before beating

fellow-American Tony Giammalva 6-3, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Kuharszky's win over Gerulaitis was his best since he started on the international circuit two years ago. He said he defected from Hungary because he had little chance of becoming a successful player there.

The Hungarian, now based in Switzerland, certainly caught Gerulaitis, a former Australian title holder, on a bad day.

"I wasn't feeling all that good when I got up today and he played well. That's about it," Gerulaitis said.

"I couldn't get any returns back and I really wasn't hitting the ball that well. I think he saw what kind of condition I was in and just played a smart steady kind of game."

American Hank Pfister was another seed who failed to survive Saturday's second round, losing in four sets to Californian Marcel Freeman.

And American Ken Flach, a 20-year-old qualifier ranked 429th in the world, toppled compatriot John Sadri, a former runner-up in this tournament, in

straight sets.

Flach, from St. Louis, Missouri, was playing in his first grass court tournament and only his second Grand Prix event since turning professional after the U.S. Open earlier this year.

He is operating on a shoestring budget and travelled to Australia with only \$1,000 in his pocket.

Freeman, who beat the big serving Pfister 6-1, 6-7, 7-6, 6-1 had never played a singles match on grass before and this was his first victory in a best-of-five sets match.

After his testing clash with Testerman, Wilander admitted that he would have to be more positive if he was to have any chance of taking the title.

Wilander, a key member of the Swedish Davis Cup team to meet Australia in the Davis Cup final here later this month, was reluctant to move in behind his second serve and was often stretched by Testerman's potent serve and volley game.

"I'm sure I will be playing better after another two or three weeks on grass courts," he said.

Salazar predicts fast Fukuoka marathon

FUKUOKA, Japan (R) — World record holder Alberto Salazar takes on Toshihiko Seko of Japan in one of marathon running's great clashes here on Sunday, and the two hours eight minutes barrier could be broken for the first time.

The Fukuoka international has lived up to its billing as one of the world's premier marathons by attracting two of its three greatest exponents — the other is Rob de Castella of Australia — even though the confrontation developed by accident.

Seko entered early but Salazar, a season of injury and illness behind him, decided only last month to take part in this race — a decision which Seko might not entirely have welcomed.

The Japanese star, who ended his own run of injury problems by winning the Tokyo marathon in two hours eight minutes 38 seconds earlier this year, has another leg injury which has made him a doubtful starter on Sunday.

Seko, 27, whose time in Tokyo

last February was the fourth fastest, confirmed on Saturday that he would run Sunday but said he is not out of it.

"The injury to my left leg has healed and I decided to run only to qualify for the Olympics next year," Seko said.

"I will be satisfied if I finish among the top three Japanese," he added.

Salazar, an American who set the world's fastest time of two hours eight minutes 13 seconds in the 1981 New York marathon, said on Saturday he is in shape to go under two hours and eight minutes if race conditions were good on Sunday.

"I feel I'm in the best shape of my life," said the 25-year-old Cuban-born Salazar, who has had a chastening year marred by defeat.

He placed only fourth in the World Cross Country event early this year, a competition he had been determined to win, then he was badly beaten by de Castella in Rotterdam in April, his first defeat in five marathons.

Because of y, Salazar pro-

bably should not have run that race, which cost him a chance of making the U.S. marathon team for the August World Championships in Helsinki. Instead, he ran the 10,000 metres there, but after a nagging cold developed into bronchitis, he barely qualified for the final and finished last.

Now, he feels, he is back to the sort of form with which he won three successive New York marathons from 1980 to 1982.

If Seko, who won the 1981 Boston marathon, cannot challenge him Sunday, Salazar may find himself locked in combat with little Tanzanian Juma Ikangaa, who ran de Castella so close in the Commonwealth Games marathon in Australia a year ago.

Ikangaa, 26, had tried various tactical plays in races since then, without great success, and on Sunday he may well re-employ his former strategy of setting a fast early pace and then holding on to the finish.

Salazar did not single out names Saturday when asked who his main rivals would be, but he said there were "two or three runners

capable of running faster than 2:08." He added that he was sure it would be a fast race.

Another incentive for the American is to qualify for the U.S. Olympic trials in Buffalo in April, for which he needs a time of around 2:19.

Other fine runners from the field of 140 from 14 nations include the Japanese Soh Brothers, Takeshi and Shigeru, who have both broken 2:09, two-time Olympic Champion Waldemar Cierpinski of East Germany and 1982 winner Paul Ballinger of New Zealand.

Cierpinski, 33, said: "I don't think I can win. But I would like to make this a stepping stone for next year's Olympics."

Ballinger said he was fitter than last year, when his winning time was 2:10.15. "I will try to better that," he said.

Other notable entrants are American Ed Mendoza and Gerry Helme of Britain, who both ran in the World Championship Marathon in Helsinki.

Decisions on '86 World Cup finals to be taken next week

ZURICH (R) — The draw for the qualifying competition, the timing and the format of the 1986 World Cup finals are all due to be settled next week in this lakeside city, headquarters of the International Football Federation (FIFA).

A three-day series of meetings beginning on Tuesday will be highlighted by Wednesday's qualifying draw when a record entry of 121 countries will discover what is required of them if they are to reach the 24-nation finals in Mexico.

In addition to the draw, two key decisions regarding the format and timing of the finals will be taken by the FIFA executive committee on Thursday. These decisions will be based on the recommendations of the 1986 World Cup Organising Committee who will hold a plenary session on Tuesday.

While it has been agreed that 24 teams will again contest the finals, two fresh formats have been proposed for Mexico. Rather than having two rounds of group matches, as was the case in the 1980 finals in Spain, only one such round would be held under the new formats, with the competition then being decided on a knockout basis.

One scheme involves an opening round with four groups of six teams, each team playing five matches. The two top teams in each group would go through to a knockout tournament. The play-off for third place would be scrapped leaving a total of 67 mat-

ches.

The alternative format envisages 16 teams advancing to a knockout competition from a first round of six four-team groups. The top two in each group and the best four third-placed teams would go forward and, with a third place play-off, there would be 32 matches in all.

It is hoped the championships will be played over 23 or 25 days, a reduction on the 1980 finals.

Two dates, May 17 and May 31, have been suggested as the starting date for the finals.

Mexico's Guillermo Canedo, FIFA vice-president and organising committee member, hopes for an earlier beginning than the customary June start in order to avoid the heavy July rains.

But European countries, who have 11 members on the 23-man organising committee, are known to oppose an early start because the finals of the European club competitions traditionally take place in May. They also feel that with Mexico's high altitude a long period of acclimatisation will be necessary.

A FIFA source said that two late applications from Jordan and Lebanon had boosted the entry for the 1986 World Cup to 121.

Europe, with 14 places in the finals, have 33 entrants. Italy, the reigning World Champions, qualify automatically and the other 32 countries will vie for the remaining 13 spots.

Mexico, the host country, are also automatic qualifiers, leaving only one place for the other 17

nations who have entered from the North and Central America and Caribbean (CONCACAF) section.

Ten South American countries will be competing for four final places, 29 African countries for two and 31 Asia-Oceania countries for two.

FIFA will again have to grapple with the difficult issue of where in the draw to place Israel.

Israel was once a member of the Asian Football Confederation but resigned in 1977 after being expelled earlier as many Asian countries refused to play against them.

In the 1979 draw for the preliminary rounds of the 1982 World Cup, FIFA took executive action and placed Israel in a European qualifying group after they were rejected for the CONCACAF tournament.

This time, though, European countries are opposed to accommodating Israel. UEFA General Secretary Hans Bangertner said: "We will propose to the organising committee that Israel does not remain in our group."

With the options fast diminishing, a FIFA source said that Israel may be moved to the Oceania group, joining Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan.

Later, FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter said: "We have decided to move Israel to the Oceania group."

"The decision has now been referred back to the organising committee," Blatter told Reuters.

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Prequalification questionnaires may be obtained by applying in writing or by telex to the address below.

One copy of the completed questionnaire should be sent to that address by December 31, 1983 by contractors who wish to be considered for the corridor work, or by January 31, 1984 by contractors who are interested only in the interchanges.

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Director

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Interviews will be held at the Amra Hotel, 6th Circle, Monday through Friday December 5th - 9th. For appointments on fixed time and day call 815071 ext. 1227, Amman.

Iran to press OPEC to raise oil price

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said his country would press OPEC at its ministerial meeting in Geneva next week to increase its benchmark oil price by \$5 a barrel to \$34.

Mr. Gharazi told a news conference: "Our suggestion to the OPEC meeting is that the price should return to the level of \$34."

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), faced with a world recession and oil glut, agreed at a meeting in London last March to cut oil prices by \$5 to \$29 a barrel and limit overall OPEC production to 17.5 million barrel per day (b/d).

Mr. Gharazi said the market would bear a price of \$34 a barrel if OPEC stuck to the 17.5 million b/d ceiling.

He said OPEC was producing more at present.

He accused Saudi Arabia in particular of pumping more oil than it should and said it had a duty to cut back.

Mr. Gharazi said Iran "believes that if the level of 17.5 million b/d had been preserved, the conditions in the market would now be much better than they are and we would be approaching our original price, that is \$34."

Meanwhile, Nigerian oil policy makers have recently been discussing a change in the way OPEC shares export quotas among its members, officials sources said Saturday.

Nigeria, with its huge population, has a foreign exchange shortage caused by the economic effects of a world oil glut, and would like quotas to be allocated according to the needs of the countries concerned, and not according to traditional markets.

A higher quota for Nigeria would weaken domestic criticism of continued OPEC membership. But officials sources expected no change in prices or quotas when OPEC's 13 oil ministers meet in Geneva next week.

Nigerian oil production has now stabilised at close to its OPEC quota of 1.3 million b/d and the country could still sell more, officials sources said. Nigeria has no shortage of buyers but has kept production down to slightly below the quota over the last few months, to balance summer output that peaked at 1.7 million b/d, the sources said.

Creditors seize ten Hellenic Lines ships

NEW YORK (R) — Ten cargo ships owned by one of Greece's biggest shipping firms, Hellenic Lines, have been seized after it failed to keep up with its debt payments, a company spokesman said here.

Four of its 32 vessels have been seized in the United States, one in Baltimore and three in New York, he said. The rest have been impounded in the Middle East and Italy.

Some of the ships were seized by a bank group led by Morgan Guaranty Trust of the United States, which said Hellenic owed \$82.9 million and failed to make a \$2.4 million interest payment last month.

A spokesman said other creditors had also seized ships.

Lloyds shipping intelligence service in London said the privately-owned company, which is considered Greece's national flag carrier, had fallen victim to the slump in freight rates over the last few years and reduced business with Arab countries because of depressed oil prices.

A spokesman said the company had invested very heavily in its container ship business since 1980.

In the Greek port of Piraeus, the news of the seizures by creditors of Hellenic stunned the shipping and financial community, shipping sources told Reuters Friday.

Hellenic, run from New York by shipowner Gregory Kallimanolopoulos, is one of the few Greek firms operating along regular lines rather than on a "tramp" basis — going wherever there is business — which is Greek shipping's specialty.

Hellenic offers the only liner/container service for Greek goods to the United States, South Africa, India and Pakistan.

Shipping sources regarded the news as an ominous sign for container shipping in particular and for the Greek merchant fleet in general.

Greece's merchant fleet, the world's largest, has been hard hit by the two-year-old recession in world shipping. Hundreds of Greek ships are laid up at anchorages in Piraeus and around the world and many are unlikely to sail again.

Although the recession which struck in the mid-1970s saw some dramatic foreclosures, shipping sources said this was the first major foreclosure to hit a Greek firm in the current downturn.

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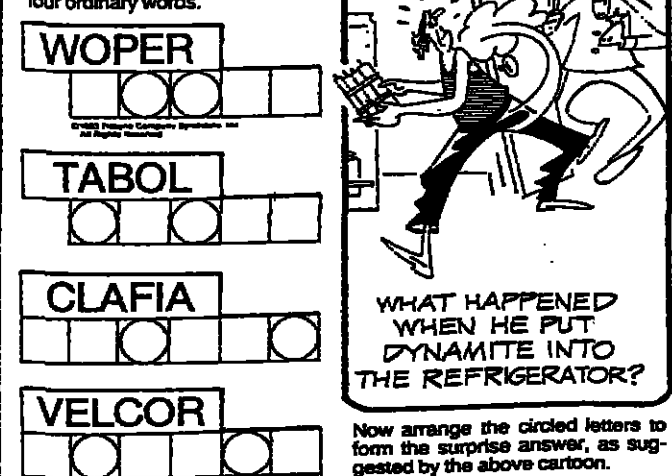
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Yesterday's Jumbles: BRIBE FLANK MODIFY ACTING

Answer: When they invented dry-clean clothes, this just about came to an end — THE IRON AGE

E.C. summit opens today

ATHENS (R) — European Community (E.C.) leaders open a three-day summit conference Sunday seen as crucial for the 10-nation bloc's survival.

They must find quick solutions to two major problems — runaway spending on farm subsidies and British budget overpayments — that have deeply split and virtually paralysed the group, diplomats and officials said.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who will preside at the meeting, called Friday on the heads of state and government to show the flexibility necessary to ensure success.

But diplomats who have taken part in almost six months of tortuous negotiations were worried that not enough progress had been made for the leaders to agree on a rescue package for the almost-bankrupt group.

Mr. Papandreu has said that failure would be devastating for the community and told the leaders in his eve of summit message

that the summit must agree what

specific measures to take and how these would affect different groups of farmers and states.

The common concern of the three larger states to get strict spending controls has worried many of the other members which gain most from the farm subsidies system and the now virtually moribund regional and social aid schemes.

Italy was particularly disheartened and could well block any reform that would threaten its farming and other interests, diplomats said.

A Rome-Bonn clash may also be expected over steel, not formally part of the proposed reform package but a question which West Germany said it will raise at the summit.

Bonn has said it cannot see how it can continue to subsidise its own steel industry while maintaining its financial commitments to the community.

West Germany wants guaranteed security for its steel makers in any new agreed prices and quotas system to shield them from state-subsidised competition within and outside the group.

Italy feels its modern steel industry is being asked to shut down in order to protect ageing competitors.

Diplomats said the summit's most difficult problem was likely to be agreement on a fair share-out of the budgetary burden, a condition of British approval for any reform package.

They said the need to resolve the British problem was no longer challenged but the 10 were still divided over how to measure the budget burden of each state as well as how Britain, and to a lesser extent West Germany, should be compensated.

A date for completing negotiations for the entry of Spain and Portugal into the community would be linked to a completion of the reform process, they added.

Cyprus unveils deficit-cutting budget

NICOSIA (R) — The Cyprus government has unveiled a 1984 budget with plans to introduce new forms of taxation, reduce a budget deficit and curb imports.

Finance Minister Simos Vassiliou promised a credit squeeze to cut liquidity and said the building of new hotels in the overdeveloped tourist areas of the island and its beaches and bays would be "discouraged."

The internationally-recognised Cyprus government controls only the Greek-Cypriot southern sector of the island.

Overall budget figures are made up from three component budgets — ordinary, refugee and development.

Projected 1984 revenue for the ordinary budget was 244.3 million pounds (\$488.6 million) compared with 221.1 million pounds (\$442.2 million) in 1983, and

expenditure 301.7 million pounds (\$603.4 million) compared with 259.1 million pounds (\$518.2 million).

Refugee budget income for 1984 was estimated at 20.6 million pounds (\$41.2 million) compared with 20.3 million pounds (\$40.6 million) this year and expenditure at 24.7 million pounds (\$49.4 million) compared with 27.7 million pounds (\$55.4 million) this year.

The development budget has no income but a projected 1984 expenditure of 62.3 million pounds (\$124.6 million) compared with 50.2 million pounds (\$100.4 million) this year.

Mr. Vassiliou said the economy was "basically healthy" and cited a 13 per cent increase in tourism in 1983 together with other invisible earnings as buoyant signs.

But the minister said growth in 1983 was expected to fall to 3 per cent from 4.8 per cent in 1982, unemployment was up to 3.4 per cent from 2.8 per cent and the rate of increase in productivity had slowed to 2 per cent from 3.5 per cent.

To cut the government's 123.5 million pounds (\$247 million) deficit, Mr. Vassiliou said bureaucracy would be cut back and unspecified "new forms of taxation" were under study.

The minister announced a freeze on high salaries, declaring that an estimated 12 per cent jump in earnings in 1983 was making Cypriot exports uncompetitive.

Domestic exports are set to fall by 4 per cent in value and imports to rise by 9 per cent in 1983, on top of an 18 per cent jump in 1982.

These negative developments are expected to lead to a further widening by 18 per cent of our trade deficit, which is estimated to rise to around 330 million pounds (\$660 million) compared to 280 million pounds (\$560 million) in 1982," he said.

He said estimated 1983 tourism revenues at 170 million pounds (\$340 million) following a 13 per cent rise in visitors would help offset the deficit.

Mr. Vassiliou said Cyprus foreign exchange reserves were expected to increase to 360 million pounds (\$720 million) at the end of this year compared with 288.8 million pounds (\$577.6 million) at the end of 1982.

Domestic inflation was expected to ease by one percentage point from 3.4 per cent in 1982, he added.

French coffee war hurts suppliers

PARIS (R) — The French addition to coffee is flourishing, but a cut-price war is squeezing many roasters and distributors out of business, according to industry and trade sources.

France is the world's fifth largest consumer of coffee and 91 per cent of its people are coffee drinkers.

Over the years a few large suppliers have come to dominate the market, but the low-price campaign led by the Swiss-owned Jacques Vabre Company has been putting pressure on even the major groups, they said.

At the beginning of November one of them, Cafe Legal, announced that it would cut its roasting activities by half and stop marketing its own brands by the beginning of 1984.

Legal, a subsidiary of the U.S. General Foods, is among France's

commonest brands, but a spokesman told Reuters it was cutting back because its coffee sector was running at a loss.

Traders here say Legal's losses are largely due to trying to compete with Jacques Vabre's low-priced campaign.

A spokesman for the Coffee Roasters Association, Mr. Jacques Rault, said roasters need to get around twice the price they pay for the unroasted, or green, beans to cover production costs.

Green coffee currently costs around 22 francs per kilogramme (\$1.2 a pound) while there are some special offers in supermarkets for as little as 30 to 35 francs per kilogramme (\$1.6 to \$1.9 a pound).

The companies refuse to give any details on their roasting output or sales, but Ms. Marina Salmon, secretary general of Jacques

Vabre, said the company could be described as the leading coffee roaster in France.

Mr. Rault said Vabre, a subsidiary of the Swiss-based group Jacobs.Cafe, moved into a "very important market position" when it bought one of the most popular brands, "Cafe Grandmère," around two years ago.

France consumed 214,934 tonnes of coffee in the first eight months of this year against 209,358 tonnes in the same period of 1982.

Mr. Rault blamed the fragile state of the industry on the strength of the U.S. dollar against the franc, which made imports more expensive, and on shrinking profit margins.

Its survival had not been helped by the socialist government's policy of informally agreeing maximum price increases with the various industries, he added.

The only sector successfully resisting these pressures, said Mr. Rault, was the luxury end of the market, where around 700 small roasters produced special coffees which commanded high prices.

Some consumers still treat coffee making as an art, insisting on special roasts, freshly ground beans and their favoured brewing method. But the average French coffee drinker is being won over by convenience and now about half of the coffee sold is ready-ground.

The French, however, are clinging to their preference for "real" coffee.

Imports of instant coffee totalled 11,383 tonnes in the first eight months of this year compared with 212,783 tonnes of beans.

Peanuts

YES, MA'AM, WE HAVE A COMPLAINT... WE ALL GOT SICK DURING THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS...

THAT MEANS WE DIDN'T GET OUT OF SCHOOL... WE WERE SICK ON OUR OWN TIME... WE DON'T THINK THAT WAS FAIR...

"GO SEE THE CHAPLAIN"?

SARCASM DOES NOT BECOME YOU, MA'AM!

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN

1 Father

2 Actor

3 Home entertainer

4 Cubic meter

5 Scientists' places

6 Mimic

7 Author

8 LXXX

9 Rain mixed with snow

45 Of kidneys

46 Fiend

48 Explosive

49 Tell

51 Vein find

53 Blabs

56 — Dallas

59 "I cannot tell"

60 Fla. resort city

62 Landed

63 Advertising sign

64 TV actor — Williams

65 Take out, to a proof-reader

66 Kelly or Tierney

67 — Half U.

68 New York State canal

42 — Dietrich

46 Briny

47 Finally!

50 Fernando of films

52 English novelist

53 Sharp taste

54 Robt. —

55 "The — in places

56 — Fein

57 Caron film

58 To — (exactly)

61 Cow sound

Andy Capp

SIR, WILL YOU PLEASE CALL ME A TAXI?

OH, SURE, MA'AM!

TAXI!

BUT THEN AGAIN YOU MAY BE A TEAKETTLE

WHO SAYS MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS?

HERE YOU ARE, PET — GET YOURSELF OFF

YES, MA'AM, WE HAVE A COMPLAINT... WE ALL GOT SICK DURING THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS...

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'Racism is growing in Australia'

CANBERRA (R) — Racism is growing in Australia due to higher unemployment and economic hardship, former community relations commissioner Al Grassby said.

"The Australian who in the pub, the club, the factory, the office or the school says, 'I hate abos, poms, wogs, Asians, Jews and boongs' should be told he is an old bigot with a hangover from the past who has no place in Australia today," Mr. Grassby said in an address to community relations workers.

In Australian slang 'abos' refers to aborigines, 'poms' to the English and 'wogs' to non-whites.

Mr. Grassby said high unemployment, currently around 10 per cent, had led to schools reporting more anti-black vendettas, street gangs had grown up along racial lines and neighbours who had lived side-by-side for years were quarrelling.

International body to probe Indonesian death wave

JAKARTA (R) — A new international commission will ask the Indonesian government for information on the killing of some 2,000 people this year by mystery gunmen, former Indonesian Vice-President Adam Malik said here Saturday.

Mr. Malik, a commission member and former U.N. general assembly president, said the U.N.-sponsored independent international commission on humanitarian issues would investigate the killings and mysterious disappearances in Indonesia.

He said he would also collect information from newspapers on the killings which started in central Java in February.

Several senior government officials have described the slayings, widely believed to be the work of government agents, as a campaign to reduce crime which they said was increasing.

As Mr. Malik was speaking to journalists and human rights advocates, a Jakarta newspaper reported the discovery of four more bodies shot in the head.

The commission has 25 members, all prominent people from various countries.

At its first meeting in New York last month the commission heard reports of mysterious disappearances in Indonesia, the Philippines, El Salvador, Argentina, Guatemala, South Africa and a number of other countries, mainly in Africa and South America.

Answering questions at a press conference, Mr. Malik said there was now a "psychology of fear" in Indonesia, notably among the press, about reporting human rights violations.

U.S. tests laser cannon

WASHINGTON (R) — An airborne laser cannon destroyed an unmanned target aircraft and damaged two others in tests off California, the Pentagon announced.

It said the tests showed the ability of the high-energy laser beam to focus on a target and maintain contact long enough to burn through the target's skin and destroy its critical components.

President Reagan in a so-called "star wars" speech last March, called for a new space system to defend the United States against nuclear attack using lasers and other such weapons.

Marcos alleges 'conspiracy' against him

MANILA (R) — Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos, under growing pressure from businessmen to allow election of a vice-president, has said revival of the issue is part of a conspiracy but that he will leave the decision to parliament, the presidential palace said Saturday.

Mr. Marcos, who is in Baguio in the north on his first visit outside the capital in four months, told his supporters he was personally opposed to having a vice-president but he would not interfere with parliament's decision.

"Undoubtedly there is a plot somewhere we cannot yet unmask, but I have faith and trust in divine providence," he said.

He told his supporters in Baguio Friday that those who favoured electing a vice-president were trying to lessen his power and added: "That will make me a lame-duck president because the vice-president is elected while the president is not...that's ridiculous."

Filipino businessmen are the strongest advocates of restoring the vice-presidency, hoping that a clear line of succession will revive the confidence of international bankers and investors which nosedived after opposition leader Benigno Aquino, an old political rival of Mr. Marcos, was shot dead at Manila Airport last August.

Parliament is scheduled to



Ferdinand Marcos

begin debate on the vice-presidency on Monday. The ruling New Society Movement Party of Mr. Marcos favours naming the speaker of parliament as a successor to the president should he fail to complete his term, ending in 1987, when it wants a vice-president to be elected.

However, the business community has opposed this, saying it lacked public support, and proposed electing a vice-president next May when parliament elections are to be held.

Succession is one of the Philippines' biggest problems, and businessmen believe the resolution of a massive foreign debt crisis depends on how it is handled.

The Philippines, which has foreign debts totalling \$24 billion, wants seven to eight billion to be restructured. But bankers say creditors are likely to approve only about \$4 billion.

Corruption a big issue in Japanese elections

TOKYO (R) — Japan's opposition Saturday used the issue of political corruption to spearhead its attack on Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as campaigning for this month's general election officially opened.

Mr. Nakasone's decision to call the election on Dec. 18 followed a prolonged political deadlock arising from the conviction of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka in the Lockheed bribery scandal two months ago.

The opposition boycotted parliament to try to force Mr. Tanaka to quit his seat and end his backstage role as LDP kingmaker, forcing Mr. Nakasone to dissolve the house of representatives last Monday and call the election.

Mr. Tanaka is appealing against his conviction and four-year prison sentence for taking a bribe from the Lockheed Aircraft cor-

poration while prime minister in the early 1970s. He is standing again for the seat he has held since 1947.

Masashi Ishibashi, chairman of the main opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP), launched his campaign Saturday by demanding a clean-up of Japanese politics.

In a reference to Mr. Tanaka, Mr. Ishibashi said: "The man who received a four-year prison sentence now controls politics. The parliament has failed to oust him but I ask you to send him packing."

Italy's ex-secret service chief under arrest

ROME (R) — Gen. Giuseppe Santovito, former head of Italy's military secret service, SISMI, was arrested Friday on charges of revealing state secrets, magistrates said.

An official at the magistrate's office denied earlier reports from judicial sources that Gen. Santovito had been arrested on charges of mafia-linked conspiracy.

The ailing general, 65, was questioned at paramilitary carabinieri barracks then taken back to his home and put under house arrest.

The charge relates to an article published in September 1980 in the Italian weekly Panorama, in which journalist Andrea Barberi outlined international terrorist links on the basis of a classified document made available by Gen. Santovito's office.

Magistrates said they also issued a warrant for the arrest of Francesco Pazienza who, it was alleged, persuaded Gen. Santovito to provide the classified document.

Pazienza was a close friend of Licio Gelli, head of the illegal P2 masonic lodge, who escaped from a Swiss prison last summer shortly before a Lausanne court authorised his extradition to Italy.

In an article in next week's edition of Panorama previewed Friday, Mr. Barberi said Gen. Santovito showed him the document of more than 100 pages to back up his complaint that the media did not give SISMI enough credit for its work.

The document was classified for the prime minister and the interior and defence ministers only, but contained nothing sensational, the article said.

After reading the document, Mr. Barberi says, he was asked by the general to sign a statement saying he had come across it by chance. He refused to sign, though he alleges the general tried to intimidate him.

Reagan happy with his Grenada scoop

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan said that after the invasion of Grenada there would be no further confrontations in the Caribbean unless Marxists provoked one.

"We don't plan any further confrontations. That will be up to them," he said in an interview with a group of high school students.

Mr. Reagan said Cuban President Fidel Castro and others "got the message" that the U.S. invasion of Grenada on Oct. 25 was a lesson that the United States, though not warlike, knew peace could not be bought at any price.

"When our national security is concerned, the world had better know that we're going to do whatever's necessary for the safety and protection of our freedoms and the people of this country," he said.

Mr. Reagan has said he ordered the invasion of Grenada to protect American medical students on the Caribbean island and to restore democracy after a Marxist group seized power in a bloody coup.

Ugandan general dies in air crash

NAIROBI (R) — Uganda's armed forces chief, Maj. Gen. David Oyite-Ojok, has been killed in a helicopter crash, Ugandan Vice-President Paulo Muwanga said Saturday.

In an unscheduled government radio broadcast monitored in Nairobi, Mr. Muwanga said five army officers and three civilians also died in the crash. He gave no details of where or when it happened.

Gen. Oyite-Ojok was also head of the Uganda coffee marketing board. Coffee counts for more than 90 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings.

He was viewed by Ugandans and Western diplomats as one of the most powerful people in the country after President Milton Obote and Mr. Muwanga.

Under the constitution, Mr. Muwanga would become president if Mr. Obote died or stepped down. But many Western analysts believe that Gen. Oyite-Ojok would have emerged as a contender for the presidency.

An anonymous caller claiming to speak for the Ugandan National Resistance Army, a guerrilla group seeking to overthrow the government, later told Reuters in Nairobi that his movement had shot down the helicopter.

The caller said the aircraft was flying to Kampala from Bombo barracks 30 kilometres away when it was brought down Friday night.

Shuttle crew look for the edge of the universe, repair leaky oven

HOUSTON (R) — The crew of the space shuttle Columbia has been kept busy repairing a leaky oven and a faulty tape recorder while delicate instruments peered into space looking for the "edge of the universe".

On the fifth day of a planned nine-day mission Friday, the crewmen performed experiments in the European-built spacelab to study how metals mix and fluids float under weightless conditions.

"We have a very successful scientific mission in progress," mission manager Harry Craft said, adding that about 50 of the flight's 73 experiments had already begun.

But there were also minor problems to occupy the six-man crew, working in three-man teams.

A high-speed data recorder used to store experiment results for relay to earth went wrong, but mission specialist Robert Parker managed to repair it.

A special oven used to heat scientific samples in a vacuum developed a leak, but was easily mended by West German crewman

Ulf Merbold.

"This was a marvellous example of the flexibility of having trained crew members aboard spacelab," said Dr. Kurt Knott, the European space agency's chief scientist for the joint U.S.-European mission.

Merbold's repair enabled him and fellow scientist Byron Lichtenberg to continue investigations of how liquids react to movement and how melted metals mix in zero gravity.

Hydrogen bubbles

Mission officials also reported that hydrogen bubbles had developed in one of two tanks of drinking water and the crew was told to remove some water from the other tank and store it in bottles for later use.

While the water is not harmful, it tastes unpleasant and causes intestinal discomfort, mission officials said.

Shuttle astronauts have to drink plenty of liquid just before returning to earth to minimise some

of the physical phenomena they experience back on the ground.

The crew found time to beam down some brilliant colour television pictures from their orbiting spacecraft.

With a cloudy earth in the background, they showed the white spacelab module in the shuttle cargo hold decorated with an American flag and emblems of the mission.

At the same time an automated telescope equipped with a camera scanned outer space in an effort to gauge how many galaxies might exist.

Dr. Stuart Bowyer, the main scientist for that study, said here it was possible the extremely powerful telescope "might even see the edge of the universe."

"That is highly speculative," he warned, "but it is still a possibility."

Dr. Bowyer said his experiment was "similar to standing in a forest and trying to count the trees," but it would give astronomers a better understanding of the universe.

Shape of Nicaraguan polls uncertain

LIMA (R) — Nicaraguan junta leader Daniel Ortega said here that the question of whether U.S.-backed insurgents could take part in elections promised for 1985 was still to be decided.

But Mr. Ortega, on a two-day official visit to Peru to seek political support, added that the key to stability in the region was held by the United States.

His comments came after a senior U.S. official said that five Nicaraguan rebel groups had offered to suspend military operations against the left-wing Sandinist government if Nicaragua moved towards elections and other democratic reforms.

Asked about the insurgents' offer, Mr. Ortega said his government had not yet defined which groups could take part in

the 1985 polls, adding it would never bow to U.S. pressure.

Nicaragua would decide on an electoral process and define its form as well as participation in it and the question of rebel participation would be answered, he told reporters Friday at the start of a two-day official visit to Peru.

In Managua, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has ruled out negotiations with U.S.-backed rebels fighting to overthrow the left-wing government, saying it would not talk to what he called puppets.

In talks Thursday between representatives of five insurgent groups and U.S. Central America envoy Richard Stone, the rebels were reported to have offered to halt their war if Nicaragua introduced democratic changes and

held elections.

"Stone should not waste his time but serve as mediator between the Nicaraguan government and its aggressor, the U.S. government," Mr. D'Escoto was quoted as saying.

In Panama City the leader of U.S.-backed rebels fighting to overthrow the Nicaraguan government Friday accused it of leaving them with no alternative but continued war.

Adolfo Calero, chief of the Honduras-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), said Nicaraguan junta leader Ortega had refused an offer of negotiations.

Mr. Calero said: "Remarks made by Ortega close the door to a negotiated solution of the conflict, leaving us only the path of arms."

Norwegian luxury liner rescues 151

JAKARTA (R) — A Norwegian luxury liner rescued 151 crew and passengers last Tuesday from a disabled ferry stranded for 11 days at sea, after finding four men swimming in the dark in the middle of the Sulawesi Sea, government officials said.

The officials, speaking to Reuters by telephone from north Sulawesi, said the ferry's fuel and water had run out and a sail which the crew attempted to use was destroyed by bad weather. Two children had died of thirst before the rescue.

The 742 Australian, Canadian and American passengers aboard the cruise liner were so moved by the poor condition of the survivors they each contributed \$60 for them, a Norwegian embassy official said in Jakarta.

The swimmers were found four hours after striking out from the stranded ferry in a desperate bid to reach land 80 kilometres away in north Sulawesi.

The 28,000-tonne Viking Star liner, on a 14-day Bali-East Indies cruise, spotted the 50-tonne Dojo after an hour's search more than six kilometres from where it found the swimmers. The people aboard the stranded boat

had been living off a cargo of rice.

"Most of them had practically given up hope as the water had run out four days previously," one official said. "The Norwegian ship must have looked like an angel of mercy to them."

The Dojo set out from Pare Pare, on the west coast of south Sulawesi, for Tarakan on the east coast of north Kalimantan, but after two days at sea it developed engine trouble. The passengers, most on their way to visit their families, found themselves drifting helplessly for 11 days until the liner appeared.

Social Democrat tipped to win Venezuelan elections

CARACAS (R) — Jaime Lusinchi, the candidate of the main Social Democratic opposition, is the favourite in the opinion polls to win Venezuela's presidential election Sunday.

Mr. Lusinchi, 59, is confident he will win, and that as president he will be able to steer the country out of its economic crisis, revive private industry and provide resources for capital investment by eliminating bureaucratic waste.

Good-humoured and unassuming by nature, Mr. Lusinchi cultivates an image as a man of the people which has served him well in this year's campaign and belies his professional background.

He was born in the small eastern Venezuelan town of Clarines, a grandson of Italian immigrants, and studied medicine in Caracas, specialising in paediatrics in Santiago and New York.

His political career has included membership of the commission that negotiated the 1966 Geneva

agreement reopening Venezuela's claim to Guyana's Essequibo territory. He has been chief whip of his Acción Democrática Party for 12 years, but is relatively little known outside Venezuela.

Mr. Lusinchi's activities with Acción Democrática, which he helped found in 1941, led to his being exiled in 1952 by the military authorities.

He spent the next six years in Chile, Argentina and the United States, returning to Caracas after dictator Marcos Pérez Jiménez was overthrown in January 1958.

Mr. Lusinchi tried to win his party's nomination for the presidential contest in 1978, but lost in a party primary to party founder Romulo Betancourt's protégé, Luis Pineru Ordoz, who was defeated by current President Luis Herrera Campins.

As a candidate for this year's poll Mr. Lusinchi has suffered attacks on his lack of administrative experience, but insists he will lead

a government capable of reviving the economy and correcting social injustices.

Powerful contender

Former President Rafael Caldera is contesting his fifth election for Venezuela's highest office this time and shows little sign of withdrawing from the political arena.

President between 1969 and 1974, Mr. Caldera, 67, is possibly Venezuela's best-known statesman abroad. He was one of three co-founders of the ruling Copei Party in 1946 and is a leading figure in the world Christian Democratic movement.

But in this year's elections he has been the underdog, a victim of the present government's poor economic record and an aggressive campaign by the opposition.

Mr. Caldera nevertheless has a trump card as one of the founding fathers of Venezuelan democracy, playing a major role in the short-

lived democratic government of 1945-48 and helping to draft the 1961 constitution.

Mr. Caldera is a perpetual traveller and a well-known figure in European and Latin American political circles. He was president of the world Inter-Parliamentary Union between 1979 and 1981. Last July he addressed the United Nations on the occasion of the bicentennial of South American Liberator Simon Bolivar.

But his political career in Venezuela has been chequered. Elected president with only 29 per cent of the vote, he was hindered throughout his five years in office by a minority in Congress and has since also faced opposition within his party.

This opposition has crystallised in the shape of Luis Herrera Campins, the current Venezuelan president, who earlier this year encouraged his interior minister to contest the party nomination against Mr. Caldera.

Kenyans discover 'missing link' in human evolution

NAIROBI (R) — An anthropologist displayed a handful of 17-million-year-old "missing link" fossils Friday that may obliterate theories to revise long-held theories about the earliest ancestors of apes and humans.

Kenyan Richard Leakey showed reporters at the Nairobi museum pieces of the jaw of an ape-like creature that inhabited what were then tropical forests in northern Kenya between 18 and 20 million years ago.

"It is quite dramatic," he told a news conference. It shows that a distinct species of ape existed at the same time as the Proconsul ape, hitherto thought to be the earliest ancestor of all primates and man.

"The reason that we are so intrigued is that we have all grown accustomed to thinking that Proconsul is the common stem," Dr.

Leakey said. "But here we have a clear case of something that is so different that there can be no serious discussion of this being a variant."

He said the discovery "establishes that the separation between African and Asian apes, until now thought to have occurred around 12 million years ago, must be pushed back at least to 17 million years."

According to conventional theory, Proconsul is the base from which two lines tracing human development can be drawn, starting about 20 million years ago. One line traces the development of human-type creatures in Asia through an early form of orang-utan, the other through African apes.

Dr. Leakey said his find closely resembled orang-utans and fossilised apes called Siv-

apithecus found in deposits 10 million years old in India, Pakistan, and China.

The new find appeared to have been about the size of a modern female gorilla, weighed about 60 kilograms and had a very short, pushed-in face, he said.

The fossils' exact age will be announced later.

Dr. Leakey, director of the National Museums of Kenya, said the search began when his daughter Louise, 11, found a tiny tooth fragment while walking in an arid border area of northern Kenya near Ethiopia's Lake Stephanie.

"It was tantalisingly different from any others we had found," he said.

He was about to organise an expedition at the site, called Buluk, when his wife, Meave, found the other fragments on a preliminary trip last July.

Dr. Leakey said other fragments found at Buluk included one of an unknown type of elephant.

"It has a crest on its skull, unlike other elephants which have rounded heads, and no tusks at all," he said.

He plans a major expedition as soon as funds are available.

First news of the find was given in Washington Thursday night by an American professor, Alan Walker, who took part in the expedition.

Dr. Leakey complained Friday: "The way in which this was announced has caused me considerable discomfort, embarrassment and annoyance. This is African material found in Africa by Kenyan Africans. The announcement should have come from here."



Good news to all from China

PEKING (R) — A world war is unlikely to break out this decade because the two superpowers have reached a balance of terror, according to an official Chinese magazine. The China News Service quoted the weekly World Knowledge as saying that since 1945 the United States and Soviet Union had taken an extremely cautious attitude to international crises and had been careful to avoid direct conflict. "The inhibiting role of nuclear terror causes both the Soviet Union and the United States not to create a danger of a major or nuclear war," said the magazine, which has close links with the Chinese foreign ministry.

No overseas trips for Chinese pandas till 1986

PEKING (R) — China will not give foreign zoos any more giant pandas until at least the end of 1985 because many are starving, the forestry minister was reported saying Saturday. Dong Zhiyong told the English-language China Daily newspaper the situation would get worse with the approach of winter. He said a rescue worker searching for starving giant pandas in the mountains of southwest China is believed to have died after losing contact with his colleagues. Three pandas had now died because of the withering of arrow bamboo, staple diet of the giant panda. Mr. Dong was quoted saying.

Moscow declares war on tipping

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet supreme court called for a crackdown on tipping, saying that people serving the public should be punished for taking tips or bribes in shops and restaurants. An edict issued by the court said tipping broke the law and was getting out of hand. Tips are seldom in money — more often in the form of gifts such as bottles of vodka, chocolates, cigarettes or delicacies such as smoked sausage and fish. Since such exchanges are always kept strictly confidential between the donor and recipient, it was not clear how the supreme court expected its ruling to be put into effect.

Computer frauds in for hard time

LONDON (R) — Ways to catch criminals specialising in international computer fraud are to be looked at by a committee from major non-communist industrialised nations, its members said. Members of the information, computer and communications policy committee of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) told a news conference there was a surge in international traffic in computer data. They spoke at the end of a three-day seminar to help the Paris-based OECD recommend areas for further international cooperation in this field.

Australian parents get compensation

SYDNEY (R) — The parents of a 19-year-old youth who was murdered by his best friend were awarded \$4,500 each by a court as compensation for nervous shock. The central criminal court ordered that the money be paid out of the property of George Warren who shot his friend Robert Felton 11 times with a rifle three years ago. Warren was jailed for 15 years for murder.

1 Indian killed in train accident

NEW DELHI (R) — One person was killed and 12 injured in northern India when a train officials believe may have been sabotaged, was engulfed by flames and partly derailed, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported Saturday. The engine and several coaches were derailed in the state of Haryana Friday night after a section of the train was swept by fire while travelling from Bikaner to Delhi, PTI said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ1054 ♥K85 ♠Q9 ♠K86
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ1054 ♥K85 ♠Q9 ♠K86
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ763 ♥72 ♠Q85 ♠72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK9752 ♥983 ♠6 ♠K106
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8 ♥Q108 ♠AQJ852 ♠K96
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8 ♥J108 ♠AQJ82 ♠AK94
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
?
What do you bid now?

Hand in title